
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5280

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Rasmussen, Shin, Kilmer and Honeyford)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to military scholarships; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28B.15 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Educational opportunity is a primary concern
5 of military families. Availability of educational opportunity is a
6 significant factor in readiness and retention of service personnel. It
7 is known that service personnel most appreciate public efforts to
8 assist their families during their service, especially service
9 overseas. Military spouses may suddenly find themselves primarily
10 responsible for family income. The citizens of Washington state owe a
11 debt of gratitude to those who serve in the Washington state national
12 guard and extend this gratitude to our residents who serve in the
13 reserves and on active duty in the United States military. It is
14 intended that the dollars for military scholars program created in
15 section 2 of this act will be administered by a nonprofit corporation
16 such as ThanksUSA.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) A postsecondary education grant program, known as the dollars
2 for military scholars program, is created.

3 (2) To be eligible for a postsecondary education grant under this
4 section, an applicant must:

5 (a) Be a:

6 (i) Veteran who is a resident of Washington who is on active
7 military or national guard duty, or the spouse or dependent of the
8 veteran; or

9 (ii) Veteran who is on active military or national guard duty
10 stationed in the state, or the spouse or dependent of the veteran;

11 (b) Be applying for a two or four-year institution of higher
12 education or a vocational or technical school degree or certification
13 program in Washington;

14 (c) Demonstrate a financial need as the grants are need-based; and

15 (d) Recognize that extra evaluative points will be awarded for
16 those working toward math, science, engineering, or non-English
17 language studies.

18 (3)(a) The grant program shall be administered by a nonprofit
19 organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue
20 code that provides college, technical, and vocational scholarships to
21 spouses and dependents of veterans and active members of the United
22 States armed forces.

23 (b) Need-based, postsecondary scholarship grants in amounts of
24 between one thousand and five thousand dollars each shall be made
25 available to persons who meet the eligibility requirements of this
26 section.

27 (4) The program administrator shall:

28 (a) Guarantee that all appropriated funds, excluding ten percent of
29 the funds allowable each year for operational expenses, shall go to
30 residents of Washington state or those active duty military personnel
31 stationed at a Washington state military base;

32 (b) Partner with scholarship America for scholarship application
33 processing and support;

34 (c) Make every reasonable effort to advertise the availability of
35 this scholarship widely to ensure all allowable applicants are aware of
36 the availability of this scholarship program; and

37 (d) Provide annual, audited financial statements to the fiscal
38 committees of the legislature.

1 (5) This section may be known and cited as the Washington state
2 dollars for military scholars act.

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