

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5545

C 45 L 22
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning survivor benefits.

Sponsors: Senators Wagoner, Conway, Dhingra, Lovick, Mullet, Short and Wilson, J..

Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
House Committee on College & Workforce Development

Background: Washington Military Tuition Waiver. Higher education institutions may waive all or a portion of tuition and fees for an eligible veteran or National Guard member, subject to limitations. An eligible veteran or National Guard member is a Washington resident who was:

- on active or reserve duty in the United States Armed Forces;
- a National Guard member called to active duty who served in a war or conflict fought on foreign soil or in international waters; and
- if discharged from service, was discharged honorably.

Higher education institutions must waive all tuition and fees for:

- a child and the surviving spouse or domestic partner of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who became totally disabled as a result of active service, or who is a prisoner of war (POW); and
- a child and the surviving spouse or domestic partner of an eligible veteran or National Guard member who lost their life as a result of serving in active duty.

The surviving spouse or domestic partner of the eligible veteran or National Guard member has ten years from the date of the event to receive benefits.

Summary: A surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of the eligible veteran or national guard member has ten years to receive tuition waiver benefits under the waiver from the last recurring event:

- date of death;
- date of total disability;

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- federal determination of service-connected death or total disability; or
- federal determination of POW or missing in action status.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 49 0

House 95 0

Effective: June 9, 2022