
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5035

AN ACT CONCERNING IN-STATE TUITION FOR VETERANS AND ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS.

SUMMARY

This bill entitles veterans living in Connecticut to in-state student classification regardless of their legal residence. For this it defines “veteran” as any person discharged or released, under conditions other than dishonorable, from at least 90 days of active service in the armed forces. The bill also aligns state law with federal law by extending in-state student classification to (1) children and spouses of veterans who are entitled to educational assistance pursuant to the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship and live in Connecticut and (2) eligible dependents to whom Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits can be transferred.

It also makes minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020

The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-315) enhances or expands education benefits for veterans, service members, families, and survivors. Among other things, it expands (1) eligibility for the Fry Scholarship and (2) the transfer of entitlement (i.e., eligibility) for certain dependents under the post 9/11 G.I. Bill.

Tuition Waivers for Veterans

By law, the state's public colleges and universities must waive tuition in excess of federal veterans’ benefit via the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill for eligible veterans who are accepted at an approved institution and live

in the state at the time of the acceptance. The tuition waiver does not apply to other charges or fees, such as student activity fees and room and board (CGS §§ 10a-77(e), 10a-99(e) & 10a-105(f)).

This benefit applies to (1) wartime veterans and (2) veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable or for bad conduct and have a “qualifying condition” (i.e., a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, or who have disclosed a military sexual trauma experience) (CGS § 27-103).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/03/2022)