

1 HB308  
2 116503-1  
3 By Representatives Thigpen, Harper and Beasley  
4 RFD: Education Appropriations  
5 First Read: 19-JAN-10

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a child of a veteran  
9 who is suffering from a 20 to 90 percent  
10 service-connected disability is eligible for  
11 benefits under the Alabama G.I. and Dependents'  
12 Educational Benefit Act for training at a  
13 state-supported institution of higher learning or  
14 trade school if the training is completed before  
15 the child's twenty-sixth birthday.

16 This bill would provide that a child of a  
17 veteran who is suffering from a 20 to 90 percent  
18 service-connected disability is eligible for  
19 benefits under the Alabama G.I. and Dependents'  
20 Educational Benefit Act for training at a  
21 state-supported institution of higher learning or  
22 trade school if the training is completed before  
23 the child's thirty-eighth birthday.

24 This bill would provide for a retroactive  
25 effect.

26  
27 A BILL

1 TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT

3  
4 To amend Section 31-6-6 as amended by Act 2009-559,  
5 2009 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the  
6 Alabama G.I. and Dependents' Educational Benefit Act; to  
7 provide that a child of a veteran who is suffering from a 20  
8 to 90 percent service-connected disability is eligible for  
9 benefits under the Alabama G.I. and Dependents' Educational  
10 Benefit Act for training at a state-supported institution of  
11 higher learning or trade school if the training is completed  
12 before the child's thirty-eighth birthday; and to provide for  
13 a retroactive effect.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. Section 31-6-6 as amended by Act  
16 2009-559, 2009 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "§31-6-6.

19 "(a) The spouse and children of any veteran who is  
20 suffering from 20 to 90 percent service-connected disability  
21 brought about from service in the armed forces of the United  
22 States, or the unmarried widow or widower and children of a  
23 deceased veteran who was suffering from 20 percent or more of  
24 service-connected disability at the time of death, provided  
25 ~~such~~ the disabilities as are mentioned ~~herein~~ in the section  
26 are incurred from military service, as established by the

1 State Department of Veterans' Affairs, shall be entitled to  
2 the following educational advantages and opportunities:

3 "(1) The spouse or unmarried widow or widower, as  
4 the case may be, shall be entitled to up to 27 months of  
5 schooling or the equivalent of 27 months if enrolled  
6 part-time, in any Alabama state-supported institution of  
7 higher learning, college, or university, or to a prescribed  
8 course in any Alabama state-supported trade school without the  
9 payment of any tuition, fee, or books. One change of program  
10 will be allowed without counseling. ~~It is provided, however,~~  
11 ~~that all~~ All training received at state institutions of higher  
12 learning or state trade schools under this subdivision ~~must~~  
13 shall be completed within a period of six years after the  
14 beginning date of ~~such~~ the two-year course or such prescribed  
15 course.

16 "(2) Each child of such disabled veteran shall be  
17 entitled to five standard academic years, or the equivalent of  
18 45 months if enrolled part-time, in any Alabama  
19 state-supported institution of higher learning, college, or  
20 university, or to a prescribed course at an Alabama  
21 state-supported trade school. If the course of training at the  
22 trade school does not require the full time to which such  
23 child is entitled ~~hereunder~~ under this section, then the  
24 remaining entitlement may be taken in a state-supported  
25 college or university only, without payment of any tuition,  
26 fees, or books. One change of program will be allowed without  
27 counseling. Training under this subdivision must be initiated

1 prior to the ~~child's twenty-sixth~~ thirty-eighth birthday of  
2 the child, and ~~must~~ shall be completed within eight years  
3 after its initiation, except for delays caused by military  
4 service during the training period, and in no case may  
5 training be received under this section beyond the  
6 ~~thirty-fourth~~ forty-second birthday of such child.

7 " (b) (1) The benefits provided under this section  
8 shall be available in addition to federal government benefits.  
9 Any child, spouse, or unmarried widow, or widower who was  
10 denied full entitlement, 27 or 45 months, whichever the case  
11 may be, shall have the remainder of their entitlement  
12 reinstated under this chapter.

13 "(2) The benefit provided by this section shall be  
14 retroactive to any child of a disabled veteran who was no more  
15 than 38 years of age as of December 31, 2009."

16 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
17 first day of the third month following its passage and  
18 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.