

HB284 INTRODUCED



1 HB284
2 D8S9NTN-1
3 By Representatives Starnes, Oliver, Brown, Paschal, Robertson
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5 RFD: Ways and Means Education
6 First Read: 05-Mar-24



SYNOPSIS:

Existing law allows qualifying schools under the Alabama G.I. and Dependents Educational Benefit Act either to waive unpaid fees or to bill students for educational fees remaining unpaid after applying tuition reimbursement benefits from third parties.

This bill would require qualifying schools receiving tuition reimbursement benefits on behalf of veterans and their spouses, widows, or children under the act to make use of offsets and write offs of unpaid educational fees to the same extent as tuition reimbursement benefits received from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama G.I. and Dependents Educational Benefit Act; to amend Section 31-6-15, Code of Alabama 1975, to require qualifying schools receiving tuition reimbursement benefits on behalf of veterans and their spouses, widows, or children to make use of offsets and write offs of unpaid fees to the same extent as tuition reimbursement benefits received



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from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 31-6-15, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§31-6-15

(a) The benefits provided in this chapter shall be paid from an annual appropriation from the Education Trust Fund to reimburse every qualifying school in which benefits are given to veterans and their spouses, widows, or children under this chapter. Reimbursement shall be made timely at the end of each academic quarter or semester for all tuition reimbursements for the certified invoices submitted by the institution or school to the State Department of Veterans' Affairs, and shall be supported by names of the students receiving the benefits, together with the amounts claimed for each student. Any amount of in-state tuition, books, or fees not paid by the combination of federal, state, and third party funds may be billed to students receiving the benefits or waived by the institution or school. Qualifying schools receiving tuition reimbursement benefits on behalf of veterans and their spouses, widows, or children under this chapter shall make use of offsets and write-offs to the same extent as tuition reimbursement benefits received from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) The Department of Examiners of Public Accounts may audit the records of any two-year or four-year institution of higher education that receives any reimbursement as a result of this chapter to the same extent, degree, and scope as



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audits performed on other public educational institutions. The institution shall submit to the Legislature and the State Department of Veterans' Affairs each year, before any subsequent reimbursement may be applied for or considered, a full accounting of any receipts, disbursements, assets, liabilities, and other resources as of the date of the close of the immediately preceding academic year."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.