

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 830

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2008

3061L.05T

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to combat veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section,
2 to be known as section 173.900, to read as follows:

**173.900. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri
2 Returning Heroes' Education Act".**

**3 2. For the purpose of this section, the term "combat veteran" shall
4 mean a person who served in armed combat in the military after September
5 11, 2001, and to whom the following criteria shall apply:**

**6 (1) The veteran was a Missouri resident when first entering the
7 military; and**

**8 (2) The veteran was discharged from military service under
9 honorable conditions.**

**10 3. All public institutions of higher education that receive any state
11 funds appropriated by the general assembly shall limit the amount of tuition
12 such institutions charge to combat veterans to fifty dollars per credit hour,
13 as long as the veteran achieves and maintains a cumulative grade point
14 average of at least two and one-half on a four point scale, or its
15 equivalent. The tuition limitation shall only be applicable if the combat
16 veteran is enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, or an associate or
17 baccalaureate degree. The period during which a combat veteran is eligible
18 for a tuition limitation under this section shall expire at the end of the ten-
19 year period beginning on the date of such veteran's last discharge from
20 service.**

**21 4. The coordinating board for higher education shall ensure that all
22 applicable institutions of higher education in this state comply with the**

23 provisions of this section and may promulgate rules for the efficient
24 implementation of this section.

25 5. If a combat veteran is eligible to receive financial assistance under
26 any other federal or state student aid program, public or private, the full
27 amount of such aid shall be reported to the board by the institution and the
28 veteran. The tuition limitation under this section shall be provided after all
29 other federal and state aid for which the veteran is eligible has been applied,
30 and no combat veteran shall receive more than the actual cost of attendance
31 when the limitation is combined with other aid made available to such
32 veteran.

33 6. Each institution may report to the board the amount of tuition
34 waived in the previous fiscal year under the provisions of this act. This
35 information may be included in each institution's request for appropriations
36 to the board for the following year. The board may include this information
37 in its appropriations recommendations to the governor and the general
38 assembly. The general assembly may reimburse institutions for the cost of
39 the waiver for the previous year as part of the operating budget. Nothing
40 in this subsection shall be construed to deny a combat veteran a tuition
41 limitation if the general assembly does not appropriate money for
42 reimbursement to an institution.

43 7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
44 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section
45 shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the
46 provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028,
47 RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of
48 the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo,
49 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
50 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority
51 and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2008, shall be invalid and
52 void.

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