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

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, 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 Returning Heroes’ Education Act".
2. For the purpose of this section, the term "combat veteran" shall mean a person who served in armed combat in the military after September 11, 2001, and to whom the following criteria shall apply:
   (1) The veteran was a Missouri resident when first entering the military; and
   (2) The veteran was discharged from military service under honorable conditions.
3. All public institutions of higher education that receive any state funds appropriated by the general assembly shall limit the amount of tuition such institutions charge to combat veterans to fifty dollars per credit hour, as long as the veteran achieves and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four point scale, or its equivalent. The tuition limitation shall only be applicable if the combat veteran is enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. The period during which a combat veteran is eligible for a tuition limitation under this section shall expire at the end of the ten-year period beginning on the date of such veteran's last discharge from service.
4. The coordinating board for higher education shall ensure that all applicable institutions of higher education in this state comply with the
provisions of this section and may promulgate rules for the efficient
implementation of this section.

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

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

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

✓