

By Representative Stansel

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to educational benefits for  
 3           dependent children of military personnel who  
 4           died or incurred total and permanent disability  
 5           while participating in Operation Enduring  
 6           Freedom; creating s. 295.0185, F.S.; providing  
 7           educational opportunity at state expense for  
 8           dependent children of military personnel who  
 9           died or suffered a service-connected  
 10          100-percent total and permanent disability in  
 11          Operation Enduring Freedom; specifying  
 12          documentation which constitutes proof of  
 13          eligibility for such benefits; providing an  
 14          effective date.

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 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18           Section 1. Section 295.0185, Florida Statutes, is  
 19           created to read:

20           295.0185 Children of deceased or disabled military  
 21 personnel who died or became disabled in Operation Enduring  
 22 Freedom; educational opportunity.--

23           (1) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the  
 24 state to provide educational opportunity at state expense for  
 25 the dependent children of those military personnel who died or  
 26 suffered a service-connected 100-percent total and permanent  
 27 disability rating for compensation as determined by the United  
 28 States Department of Veterans Affairs, or who have been  
 29 determined to have a service-connected total and permanent  
 30 disability rating of 100 percent and are in receipt of  
 31 disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States

1 Armed Services, while participating in Operation Enduring  
2 Freedom, which began on October 7, 2001, if such military  
3 personnel were residents of the the state during the period of  
4 military action. A certified copy of a death certificate, a  
5 valid identification card issued in accordance with the  
6 provisions of s. 295.17, a letter certifying the  
7 service-connected 100-percent total and permanent disability  
8 rating for compensation from the United States Department of  
9 Veterans Affairs, or a letter certifying the service-connected  
10 total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent for  
11 retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed  
12 Services shall be prima facie evidence of the fact that the  
13 dependent children of such military personnel are eligible for  
14 educational benefits.

15 (2) The provisions of ss. 240.404, 295.03, 295.04, and  
16 295.05 shall apply.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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20 HOUSE SUMMARY

21 Provides educational opportunity at state expense for  
22 dependent children of military personnel who died or  
23 suffered a service-connected 100-percent total and  
24 permanent disability in Operation Enduring Freedom, which  
began on October 7, 2001. Specifies documentation which  
constitutes proof of eligibility for such benefits.

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