

By Senator Mitchell

4-646-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to educational benefits for
3 dependent children of military personnel who
4 die or incur 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 die or suffer a specified disability in
10 Operation Enduring Freedom; specifying
11 documentation that constitutes proof of
12 eligibility for such benefits; providing an
13 effective date.

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

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

19 295.0185 Children of deceased or disabled military
20 personnel who die or become disabled in Operation Enduring
21 Freedom; educational opportunity.--

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

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

13 (2) The provisions of ss. 240.404, 295.03, 295.04, and
14 295.05 apply.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
16 law.

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19 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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