

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the education of children of deceased
 3 or disabled veterans; amending s. 295.01, F.S.; extending
 4 the opportunity to receive postsecondary educational
 5 benefits at state expense to the dependent children of
 6 certain dead or disabled veterans who were Florida
 7 residents when the death or disability occurred;
 8 decreasing the minimum required length of the parent's
 9 residency; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Section 295.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 14 read:

15 295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans;
 16 education.--

17 (1) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to
 18 provide educational opportunity at state expense for dependent
 19 children either of whose parents:

20 (a) Was a resident of the state at the time such parent
 21 entered the Armed Forces and:

22 1.(a) Died as a result of service-connected injuries,
 23 disease, or disability sustained while on active duty; or

24 2.(b) Has been:

25 a.1. Determined by the United States Department of
 26 Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected
 27 100-percent total and permanent disability rating for
 28 compensation;

29 b.2. Determined to have a service-connected total and
 30 permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of
 31 disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States
 32 Armed Services; or

33 c.3. Issued a valid identification card by the Department
 34 of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17;

35 (b) Met all Florida residency requirements at the time of
 36 death or the occurrence of the disability, as described in
 37 paragraph (a),

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 39 when the deceased or disabled parent of such a child has been a
 40 bona fide resident ~~parents of such children have been bona fide~~
 41 ~~residents~~ of the state for at least 1 year immediately 5 years
 42 ~~next~~ preceding the death or occurrence of such disability their
 43 ~~application for the benefits hereof~~, and subject to the rules,
 44 restrictions, and limitations set forth in this section hereof.

45 (2) Sections ~~The provisions of ss.~~ 295.03, 295.04, 295.05,
 46 and 1009.40 ~~shall~~ apply to the benefits provided under this
 47 section.

48 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
 49 administering this section.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.