

By the Committee on Higher Education; and Senator Crist

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to tuition waivers; providing a short title; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; requiring state universities and community colleges to waive a percentage of the in-state tuition rate for veterans who meet specified criteria; providing a percentage cap on the number of required credit hours for which a tuition waiver may be received; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Veterans' Tuition Assistance Act."

Section 2. Subsection (10) is added to section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.--

(10) A state university or community college shall waive 50 percent of the in-state tuition rate for a person who:

(a) Is a wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14);

(b) Received an honorable discharge;

(c) Is enrolled as a full-time, part-time, or summer-school student in any vocational or career education course or undergraduate program that terminates in a degree or certificate;

(d) Is a resident of this state at the time he or she applies for the waiver and was a resident of this state for 1 year prior to such application; and

1 (e) Submits to the state university or the community
2 college the DD-214 form issued at the time of separation from
3 service or military orders or other documentation issued
4 regarding return from active duty as defined in s. 250.01(1).

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6 Such a waiver shall be applicable for 110 percent of the
7 number of required credit hours of the degree or certificate
8 program for which the student is enrolled.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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11 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
12 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
13 Senate Bill 2006

14 The committee substitute:

15 Defines a wartime veteran in accordance with s. 1.01(14), F.S;

16 Requires the wartime veteran to be honorably discharged to be
17 eligible for the waiver;

18 Requires that the postsecondary course or program enrollment
19 must terminate in a degree or certificate;

20 Requires applicants to have established state residency at
21 least one year prior to applying for the waiver; and

22 Requires applicants to submit formal discharge documentation
23 to the postsecondary institution upon application.
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