

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Military Affairs and Domestic Security Committee

BILL: CS/SB 446

INTRODUCER: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Postsecondary Education Fee Waiver/Veteran

DATE: February 20, 2007

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Pardue</u>	<u>Skelton</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>HE</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>HA</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This committee substitute bill extends the educational tuition waiver benefit given to Floridians who are recipients of the Purple Heart and higher precedence combat decorations. The extended benefit includes repayment of outstanding undergraduate student loans made prior to receipt of the decoration.

The bill provides for an undetermined appropriation to be used for repaying such outstanding undergraduate student loans in Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

This bill amends section 1009.26 (9) of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 1009.26 (9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), directs state universities and community colleges to waive undergraduate tuition for enrolled students who are recipients of the Purple Heart or other combat decorations that are superior in precedence. Such higher precedence decorations include the Bronze Star, Silver Star, and Medal of Honor.

The section requires that recipients be enrolled in either a full or part-time or summer-school program leading to a degree or certificate. Recipients must also be Florida residents and must provide documentation of the qualifying decoration from a DD-214 form.

The waiver benefit is applicable for up 110 percent of the required credit hours to complete a degree or certificate program

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This committee substitute extends the educational tuition waiver benefit given to a recipient of the Purple Heart and higher precedence combat decorations to include repayment of his/her outstanding undergraduate student loan. To qualify, a recipient's outstanding student loan must be in good standing. The benefit applies to student loans awarded prior to receiving the combat decoration. The state is required to pay the balance due on such loans on the date the tuition waiver is first granted.

The bill provides for an undetermined appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 for the purpose of repaying these outstanding student loans.

This bill provides for an effective date of July 1, 2007.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This committee substitute provides for an undetermined Fiscal Year 2007-2008 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education. The appropriation is to be used for the purpose of repaying outstanding undergraduate student loans made to Floridians who are decorated combat veterans.

An upcoming meeting of the Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled to consider the impact of this bill. The Conference's estimate will assist in determining the amount of the proposed appropriation.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The bill only provides for an appropriation from the General Revenue Fund in Fiscal Year 2007-2008. It is unclear if the benefit will be extended to subsequent fiscal years.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
