

By Senator Cruz

18-00145-20

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1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to educational opportunities for  
 3 veterans; creating s. 295.011, F.S.; defining the term  
 4 "disabled veteran"; providing that disabled veterans  
 5 receiving certain federal educational assistance  
 6 benefits are eligible to receive an award for the  
 7 remaining cost of tuition and fees at state  
 8 universities and Florida College System institutions;  
 9 specifying applicability of other laws; providing an  
 10 effective date.

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

13  
 14 Section 1. Section 295.011, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 15 read:

16 295.011 Disabled veterans; education.-

17 (1) As used in this section, the term "disabled veteran"  
 18 means an individual who is a resident of this state and is:

19 (a) Determined by the United States Department of Veterans  
 20 Affairs to have a service-connected 100-percent total and  
 21 permanent disability rating for compensation;

22 (b) Determined to have a service-connected total and  
 23 permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of  
 24 disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States  
 25 Armed Services; or

26 (c) Issued a valid identification card by the Department of  
 27 Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17.

28 (2) Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, a disabled  
 29 veteran who receives a tuition benefit to attend a state

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30 university or a Florida College System institution under the  
31 Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, Pub. L.  
32 No. 110-252, but who does not qualify for the 100-percent  
33 eligibility tier under federal law, is eligible for an award for  
34 tuition and fees which is equal to the amount that is the  
35 difference between the portion of tuition and fees paid in  
36 accordance with federal law and the full amount of tuition and  
37 fees at the institution attended.

38 (3) Sections 295.03, 295.04, 295.05, and 1009.40 apply to  
39 any disabled veteran who receives an award under this section.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.