

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to educational opportunities for
 3 disabled veterans; creating s. 295.011, F.S.; defining
 4 the term "disabled veteran"; providing that disabled
 5 veterans receiving certain federal educational
 6 assistance benefits are eligible to receive an award
 7 for the 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.

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

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 14 Section 1. Section 295.011, Florida Statutes, is created
 15 to 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 pursuant to
 19 s. 1009.21 and is:

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

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

26 Armed Services; or

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

29 (2) Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, a disabled
30 veteran who receives a tuition benefit to attend a state
31 university or a Florida College System institution under the
32 Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, Pub. L.
33 No. 110-252, but who does not qualify for the 100-percent
34 eligibility tier under federal law, is eligible for an award for
35 tuition and fees which is equal to the amount that is the
36 difference between the portion of tuition and fees paid in
37 accordance with federal law and the full amount of tuition and
38 fees at the institution attended.

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

41 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.