

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 a waiver
 7 for the remaining cost of tuition and fees at certain
 8 institutions; requiring certain institutions to submit
 9 an annual report to the Board of Governors and the
 10 State Board of Education; requiring such boards to
 11 adopt rules; specifying applicability of other laws;
 12 providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Section 295.011, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 295.011 Disabled veterans; education.-

19 (1) As used in this section, the term "disabled veteran"
 20 means an individual who is a resident of this state pursuant to
 21 s. 1009.21 and is:

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

25 (b) Determined to have a service-connected total and

26 permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of
27 disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States
28 Armed Services; or

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

31 (2) Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, a disabled
32 veteran who receives a tuition benefit to attend a state
33 university, a Florida College System institution, a career
34 center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, or a
35 charter technical career center under the Post-9/11 Veterans
36 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252, but who
37 does not qualify for the 100-percent eligibility tier under
38 federal law, is eligible to receive a waiver for tuition and
39 fees which is equal to the amount that is the difference between
40 the portion of tuition and fees paid in accordance with federal
41 law and the full amount of tuition and fees at the institution
42 attended.

43 (a) Each state university, Florida College System
44 institution, career center operated by a school district under
45 s. 1001.44, and charter technical career center shall report to
46 the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education,
47 respectively, the number and value of all fee waivers granted
48 annually under this subsection.

49 (b) The Board of Governors and the State Board of
50 Education shall respectively adopt regulations and rules to

CS/CS/HB 1347

2021

51 | administer this subsection.

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

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