

By Senator Cruz

18-00292-21

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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.

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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 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 2021-2022 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, 2021.