



26 | education.—

27 |       (1) As used in this section, the term "servicemember"  
 28 | means a person serving as a member of the United States Armed  
 29 | Forces on active duty or state active duty and all members of  
 30 | the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces.

31 |       ~~(2)(a)(1)~~ It is the policy of the state to provide  
 32 | educational opportunity at state expense for a dependent child,  
 33 | as defined in s. 1009.21(1), of a servicemember who ~~children~~  
 34 | ~~either of whose parents entered the Armed Forces and:~~

35 |       ~~1.(a)~~ Died as a result of service-connected injuries,  
 36 | disease, or disability sustained while on active duty; or

37 |       ~~2.(b)~~ Has been:

38 |       ~~a.1.~~ Determined by the United States Department of  
 39 | Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected  
 40 | 100-percent total and permanent disability rating for  
 41 | compensation;

42 |       ~~b.2.~~ Determined to have a service-connected total and  
 43 | permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of  
 44 | disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States  
 45 | Armed Forces ~~Services~~; or

46 |       ~~c.3.~~ Issued a valid identification card by the Department  
 47 | of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17~~7~~

48 |  
 49 | ~~when the parents of such children have been residents of the~~  
 50 | ~~state for 1 year immediately preceding the death or the~~

51 ~~occurrence of such disability, and subject to the rules,~~  
 52 ~~restrictions, and limitations set forth in this section.~~

53 (b) The dependent child of a deceased servicemember is  
 54 eligible for educational benefits under this section if:

55 1. Immediately preceding the death of the servicemember,  
 56 Florida was listed as the servicemember's official home of  
 57 record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System  
 58 (DEERS) database; or

59 2. The child qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
 60 under s. 1009.21.

61 (c) The dependent child of a disabled servicemember is  
 62 eligible for educational benefits under this section if:

63 1. Immediately preceding the occurrence of the  
 64 servicemember's disability, Florida was listed as the  
 65 servicemember's official home of record in the Defense  
 66 Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database; or

67 2. The child qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
 68 under s. 1009.21 and the servicemember is a resident of this  
 69 state.

70  
 71 All rules, restrictions, and limitations set forth in this  
 72 section shall apply.

73 (3)-(2) It is also the ~~declared~~ policy of the ~~this~~ state to  
 74 provide educational opportunity at state expense for spouses of  
 75 deceased or disabled servicemembers.

76 (a) The unremarried spouse of a deceased servicemember is  
 77 eligible for educational, ~~as defined in s. 250.01, qualifies for~~  
 78 ~~the~~ benefits under this section if:

79 1. ~~If the servicemember and his or her spouse had been~~  
 80 ~~residents of the state for 1 year immediately preceding the~~  
 81 ~~servicemember's death and the servicemember's death occurred~~  
 82 ~~under the circumstances provided in subsection (1); and~~

83 2. ~~If~~ the unremarried spouse applies to use the benefit  
 84 within 5 years after the servicemember's death and:

85 1. Immediately preceding the servicemember's death,  
 86 Florida was listed as the servicemember's official home of  
 87 record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System  
 88 (DEERS) database; or

89 2. The spouse qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
 90 under s. 1009.21.

91 (b) The dependent spouse of a disabled servicemember is  
 92 eligible for educational, ~~as defined in s. 250.01, qualifies for~~  
 93 ~~the~~ benefits under this section:

94 1. ~~if~~ the servicemember and his or her spouse have been  
 95 married to each other for 1 year ~~and~~:

96 1.2. ~~If the servicemember and his or her spouse have been~~  
 97 ~~residents of the state for 1 year~~ Immediately preceding the  
 98 occurrence of the servicemember's disability, Florida was listed  
 99 as the servicemember's official home of record in the Defense  
 100 Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database; or

101           2. The spouse qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
 102 under s. 1009.21 and the servicemember is a resident of this  
 103 state. and the disability meets the criteria set forth in  
 104 subsection (1); and

105           (c)3. The eligibility for educational benefits under  
 106 paragraph (b) applies only during the duration of the marriage  
 107 and up to the point of termination of the marriage by  
 108 dissolution or annulment.

109  
 110 All rules, restrictions, and limitations set forth in this  
 111 section shall apply.

112           (4)3 Sections 295.03-295.05 and 1009.40 shall apply.

113           (5)4 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for  
 114 administering this section.

115           (6)5 A child or spouse of a servicemember may receive  
 116 benefits under either this section or s. 295.061.

117           Section 2. Section 295.015, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 118 to read:

119           295.015 Children of prisoners of war and persons missing  
 120 in action; education.-

121           (1) It is ~~hereby declared to be~~ the policy of the state to  
 122 provide educational opportunity at state expense for a dependent  
 123 child of a parent who ~~children either of whose parents~~ has been  
 124 classified as a prisoner of war or missing in action in the  
 125 service of the United States Armed Forces ~~of the United States~~

126 or in the capacity of civilian personnel captured while serving  
 127 with the consent or authorization of the United States  
 128 Government. Such educational opportunity shall be provided until  
 129 such time as the parent so classified is returned alive or the  
 130 parent's remains are recovered.

131 (2) A dependent child is eligible for educational benefits  
 132 under this section if:

133 (a) Immediately; ~~provided that, in order to be eligible,~~  
 134 ~~the parents of such children must have been residents of the~~  
 135 ~~state for 1 year~~ preceding the event that led to the parent's  
 136 classification as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the  
 137 United States Government, Florida was listed as the parent's  
 138 official home of record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility  
 139 Reporting System (DEERS) database; or

140 (b) The child qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
 141 under s. 1009.21 and the parent is a resident of this state.

142 ~~(3)(2) Sections 295.03-295.05~~ ~~The provisions of ss.~~  
 143 ~~295.03-295.05~~ and 1009.40 shall apply.

144 Section 3. Section 295.016, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 145 to read:

146 295.016 Children of servicemembers who died or became  
 147 disabled in Operation Eagle Claw; education.—

148 (1) It is the ~~hereby declared to be a~~ policy of the state  
 149 to provide educational opportunity at state expense for a ~~the~~  
 150 dependent child ~~children~~ of a ~~any~~ servicemember who died or

151 suffered a service-connected 100-percent total and permanent  
152 disability rating for compensation as determined by the United  
153 States Department of Veterans Affairs, or who has been  
154 determined to have a service-connected total and permanent  
155 disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of disability  
156 retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
157 Services, while participating in the Iranian rescue mission  
158 known as Operation Eagle Claw, ~~which servicemember was residing~~  
159 ~~in the state on April 25, 1980.~~

160 (a) A certified copy of a death certificate, a valid  
161 identification card issued by the Department of Veterans'  
162 Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17, a letter certifying the  
163 service-connected 100-percent total and permanent disability  
164 rating for compensation from the United States Department of  
165 Veterans Affairs, or a letter certifying the service-connected  
166 total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent for  
167 retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
168 is Services shall be prima facie evidence ~~of the fact~~ that the  
169 dependent child ~~children~~ of the servicemember is ~~are~~ eligible  
170 for educational ~~such~~ benefits.

171 (b) In addition to the requirement provided in paragraph  
172 (a), a dependent child is eligible for educational benefits  
173 under this section if:

174 1. On April 25, 1980, Florida was listed as the  
175 servicemember's official home of record in the Defense

176 Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database; or  
177 2. The child qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
178 under s. 1009.21 and the servicemember, if living, is a resident  
179 of this state.

180 (2) Sections 295.03-295.05 ~~The provisions of ss. 295.03-~~  
181 ~~295.05~~ and 1009.40 shall apply.

182 Section 4. Section 295.017, Florida Statutes, is amended  
183 to read:

184 295.017 Children of servicemembers who died or became  
185 disabled in the Lebanon and Grenada military arenas; education  
186 ~~educational opportunity.~~

187 (1) It is ~~hereby declared to be~~ the policy of the state to  
188 provide educational opportunity at state expense for a ~~the~~  
189 dependent child ~~children~~ of a ~~any~~ servicemember who died or  
190 suffered a service-connected 100-percent total and permanent  
191 disability rating for compensation as determined by the United  
192 States Department of Veterans Affairs, or who has been  
193 determined to have a service-connected total and permanent  
194 disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of disability  
195 retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
196 ~~Services~~, while participating in a Multinational Peace Keeping  
197 Force in Lebanon ~~during the period~~ from September 17, 1982,  
198 through February 3, 1984, inclusive, or while participating ~~as a~~  
199 ~~participant~~ in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada ~~during the~~  
200 ~~period~~ from October 23, 1983, through November 2, 1983,



201 inclusive, ~~which servicemember was residing in the state during~~  
 202 ~~those periods of military action.~~

203 (a) A certified copy of a death certificate, a valid  
 204 identification card issued by the Department of Veterans'  
 205 Affairs in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 295.17, a letter  
 206 certifying the service-connected 100-percent total and permanent  
 207 disability rating for compensation from the United States  
 208 Department of Veterans Affairs, or a letter certifying the  
 209 service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100  
 210 percent for retirement pay from any branch of the United States  
 211 Armed Forces is Services shall be prima facie evidence ~~of the~~  
 212 ~~fact~~ that the dependent child ~~children~~ of the servicemember is  
 213 ~~are~~ eligible for educational ~~such~~ benefits.

214 (b) In addition to the requirement provided in paragraph  
 215 (a), a dependent child is eligible for educational benefits  
 216 under this section if:

217 1. During either period of military action, Florida was  
 218 listed as the servicemember's official home of record in the  
 219 Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)  
 220 database; or

221 2. The child qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
 222 under s. 1009.21 and the servicemember, if living, is a resident  
 223 of this state.

224 (2) Sections 295.03-295.05 ~~The provisions of ss. 295.03-~~  
 225 ~~295.05~~ and 1009.40 shall apply.

226 Section 5. Section 295.0185, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 227 to read:

228 295.0185 Children of servicemembers who died or became  
 229 ~~deceased or disabled military personnel who die or become~~  
 230 disabled in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi  
 231 Freedom; education ~~educational opportunity~~.—

232 (1) It is ~~declared to be~~ the policy of the state to  
 233 provide educational opportunity at state expense for a ~~the~~  
 234 dependent child ~~children~~ of a servicemember who died or suffered  
 235 ~~those military personnel who die or suffer~~ a service-connected  
 236 100-percent total and permanent disability rating for  
 237 compensation as determined by the United States Department of  
 238 Veterans Affairs, or who has been ~~are~~ determined to have a  
 239 service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100  
 240 percent and is ~~are~~ in receipt of disability retirement pay from  
 241 any branch of the United States Armed Forces ~~Services~~, while  
 242 participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, which began on  
 243 October 7, 2001, or while participating in Operation Iraqi  
 244 Freedom, which began on March 19, 2003, ~~if such military~~  
 245 ~~personnel have been residents of the state during the period of~~  
 246 ~~military action~~.

247 (a) A certified copy of a death certificate, a valid  
 248 identification card issued by the Department of Veterans'  
 249 Affairs in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 295.17, a letter  
 250 certifying the service-connected 100-percent total and permanent

251 disability rating for compensation from the United States  
 252 Department of Veterans Affairs, or a letter certifying the  
 253 service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100  
 254 percent for retirement pay from any branch of the United States  
 255 Armed Forces ~~Services~~ is prima facie evidence that the dependent  
 256 child ~~children~~ of such servicemember ~~is military personnel~~ are  
 257 eligible for educational benefits.

258 (b) In addition to the requirement provided in paragraph  
 259 (a), a dependent child is eligible for educational benefits  
 260 under this section if:

261 1. During either period of military action, Florida was  
 262 listed as the servicemember's official home of record in the  
 263 Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)  
 264 database; or

265 2. The dependent child qualifies as a resident for tuition  
 266 purposes under s. 1009.21 and the servicemember, if living, is a  
 267 resident of this state.

268 (2) Sections 295.03-295.05 and 1009.40 shall apply.

269 Section 6. Section 295.0195, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 270 to read:

271 295.0195 Children of servicemembers ~~deceased or disabled~~  
 272 ~~military personnel~~ who died or became disabled in the Mideast  
 273 Persian Gulf military arena during hostilities with Iraq or in  
 274 the military action in Panama known as Operation Just Cause;  
 275 education.-

276 (1) It is ~~hereby declared to be~~ the policy of the state to  
 277 provide educational opportunity at state expense for a ~~the~~  
 278 dependent child ~~children~~ of a servicemember ~~those military~~  
 279 ~~personnel~~ who died or suffered a service-connected 100-percent  
 280 total and permanent disability rating for compensation as  
 281 determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
 282 or who has ~~have~~ been determined to have a service-connected  
 283 total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is ~~are~~  
 284 in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the  
 285 United States Armed Forces, while participating in the Mideast  
 286 Persian Gulf arena during hostilities with Iraq, which began as  
 287 Operation Desert Shield on August 5, 1990, through cessation of  
 288 those hostilities, inclusive, or while participating in the  
 289 military action in Panama known as Operation Just Cause during  
 290 December 1989, ~~if such military personnel were residents of the~~  
 291 ~~state during the period of military action.~~

292 (a) A certified copy of a death certificate, a valid  
 293 identification card issued by the Department of Veterans'  
 294 Affairs in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 295.17, a letter  
 295 certifying the service-connected 100-percent total and permanent  
 296 disability rating for compensation from the United States  
 297 Department of Veterans Affairs, or a letter certifying the  
 298 service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100  
 299 percent for retirement pay from any branch of the United States  
 300 Armed Forces is ~~shall be~~ prima facie evidence ~~of the fact~~ that

301 the dependent child ~~children~~ of such servicemember ~~is military~~  
 302 ~~personnel~~ are eligible for educational benefits.

303 (b) In addition to the requirement provided in paragraph  
 304 (a), a dependent child is eligible for educational benefits  
 305 under this section if:

306 1. During either period of military action, Florida was  
 307 listed as the servicemember's official home of record in the  
 308 Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)  
 309 database; or

310 2. The child qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes  
 311 under s. 1009.21 and the servicemember, if living, is a resident  
 312 of this state.

313 (2) Sections 295.03-295.05 ~~The provisions of ss. 295.03-~~  
 314 ~~295.05~~ and 1009.40 shall apply.

315 Section 7. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 295.02,  
 316 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

317 295.02 Use of funds; age, etc.—

318 (1) Sums appropriated and expended to carry out the  
 319 provisions of s. 295.01(2) ~~s. 295.01(1)~~ may be used to pay  
 320 tuition and registration fees, board, and room rent and to buy  
 321 books and supplies for the children of deceased or disabled  
 322 veterans or servicemembers, as defined and limited in s. 295.01,  
 323 s. 295.016, s. 295.017, s. 295.018, s. 295.0185, s. 295.019, or  
 324 s. 295.0195, or of parents classified as prisoners of war or  
 325 missing in action, as defined and limited in s. 295.015, who are

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326 | between the ages of 16 and 22 years and who are in attendance at  
327 | an eligible postsecondary education institution as defined in s.  
328 | 295.04. Any child having entered upon a course of training or  
329 | education under the provisions of this chapter, consisting of a  
330 | course of not more than 4 years, and arriving at the age of 22  
331 | years before the completion of such course may continue the  
332 | course and receive all benefits of the provisions of this  
333 | chapter until the course is completed.

334 |       (2) Sums appropriated and expended to carry out the  
335 | provisions of s. 295.01(3) ~~s. 295.01(2)~~ may be used to pay  
336 | tuition and registration fees, board, and room rent and to buy  
337 | books and supplies for the spouses of deceased or disabled  
338 | veterans or servicemembers, as defined and limited in s. 295.01,  
339 | who are enrolled at an eligible postsecondary education  
340 | institution as defined in s. 295.04.

341 |       Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.