

CHAPTER 42**(HB 115)**

AN ACT relating to waiver of tuition for dependents of veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *The child of a veteran, regardless of age, who has acquired a disability as a direct result of the veteran's service shall be eligible to receive a waiver of tuition upon admission to any state-supported university, college, or vocational training institute.*
- (2) *To be entitled to benefits under this section, the child claiming benefits must have acquired a disability determined by the United States Veterans Administration as compensable.*
- (3) *The parent-child relationship must be shown by birth certificate, marriage certificate, or other documentary evidence.*
- (4) *To entitle a child to benefit under this section the member of the National Guard or Reserve Component veteran living or deceased must have served on state active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or the veteran must have served on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, and the discharge must have been under honorable conditions. The veteran must be a resident or, if deceased, must have been a resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.*

Section 2. KRS 164.515 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The spouse, regardless of age, and any child, stepchild, or orphan of a permanently and totally disabled member of the Kentucky National Guard or Reserve Component injured while on state active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, or a permanently and totally disabled war veteran, or a one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disabled veteran regardless of wartime service, or prisoner of war or member of the Armed Services declared missing in action, who is over the age of seventeen (17) and under the age of twenty-three (23) shall not be required to pay any matriculation or tuition fees upon his admission to any state-supported institution of higher education or to any state-supported vocational training school for a period not in excess of thirty-six (36) months in order to obtain a diploma, nor in excess of the lesser number of months required for a certificate of completion.
- (2) To be entitled to benefits under this section the parent or stepparent of the child claiming benefits if living must be rated permanently and totally disabled for pension purposes or one hundred percent (100%) disabled for compensation purposes by the United States Veterans Administration or the Department of Defense. *If the veteran is ~~or is~~ deceased*, the claim to benefits is to be based on the rating held by the veteran at the time of death or if a prisoner of war or missing in action, must have been declared as such by the Department of Defense. Members of the Kentucky National Guard must be rated permanently and totally disabled as provided in KRS Chapter 342. The parent's, stepparent's, or spouse's service and rating must be evidenced by certification from the records of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, Veterans Administration Records, or the Department of Defense of the United States.

- (3) The parent-child relationship must be shown by birth certificate, legal adoption papers, marriage certificate, or other documentary evidence. A stepchild must be a member of the veteran's household. The spousal relationship must be shown by a marriage certificate or other documentary evidence.
- (4) To entitle a spouse, child, stepchild, or orphan to benefit under this section the disabled member of the National Guard or Reserve Component veteran living or deceased must have served on state active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States, and his discharge must have been under honorable conditions. He must be a resident or, if deceased, *have been*~~was~~ a resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- (5) No provision of this section shall serve to deny these benefits to an eligible spouse, child, stepchild, or orphan, who enlists, or who fulfills a military obligation, in the Armed Forces of the United States and is discharged under honorable conditions; the period of time spent in the military service to be compensated by like time, beyond the age of twenty-three (23) years if required, but not in excess of the period of enrollment as set forth in subsection (1) of this section.
- (6) The marriage of an eligible child, stepchild, or orphan, shall not serve to deny full entitlement to the benefits provided in this section.

Approved March 12, 2002