



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	S. 0241	Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author:	Young	
Subject:	Military Tuition Rates	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	A. Martin	
Impact Date:	April 9, 2021	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will remove the three-year window in which a veteran or their dependent must enroll at a public institution of higher learning (IHL) in or to be eligible for in-state tuition rates. While this bill has the potential to decrease Other Funds revenue for IHLs, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (SBTCE) feels that the impact on the technical schools would be minimal. The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) has surveyed the public IHLs to determine the impact this bill would have on their Other Funds revenue but has received no response.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

N/A

State Revenue

Currently, a veteran who serves 90 days or longer on active duty in the Uniformed Service of the United States, their respective Reserve forces, or the National Guard and is receiving educational assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, or the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (VR&E), is eligible for the in-state tuition rate at a public IHL if they enroll within three years of discharge and they live in South Carolina while enrolled at the institution. In addition, dependents of a qualifying veteran may also be eligible for in-state tuition rates. In order for a covered individual to remain eligible for in-state tuition rates, they must be continuously enrolled in a public IHL.

This bill will remove the three-year window in which a veteran or their dependent must enroll at an IHL in order to be eligible for in-state tuition rates. However, federal law puts some limits on the time veterans may qualify for federal assistance, which would, in turn, affect their eligibility for this benefit at the state level. Generally, veterans are eligible to receive education benefits under the Montgomery GI bill for up to ten years after discharge. Veterans receiving education benefits under the VR&E program generally remain eligible for twelve years. Qualifying veterans who were discharged before January 1, 2013 generally remain eligible for education

benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for fifteen years. Eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits does not expire for qualifying veterans discharged after January 1, 2013.

By removing the three-year eligibility window, this bill may allow additional individuals to qualify for in-state tuition rates. This may have a negative impact on Other Funds revenue for public IHLs. SBTCE feels that the impact on the technical schools would be minimal. CHE has surveyed the public IHLs to determine the impact this bill would have on their Other Funds revenue. To date, CHE has received no response. This fiscal impact statement will be updated upon receipt of additional information.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director