

HOUSE BILL No. 2427

By Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security

2-7

9 AN ACT relating to veterans; enacting the Kansas returning heroes' ed-
10 ucation act.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. Sections 1 through 6 shall be known and may be cited as
14 the Kansas returning heroes' education act. It is the purpose of the Kansas
15 returning heroes' education act to establish an educational assistance pro-
16 gram under which payment of the tuition and fees charged eligible hon-
17 orably discharged members of the United States armed forces and citi-
18 zens of the state of Kansas for enrollment at Kansas educational
19 institutions shall be provided for by the state.

20 Sec. 2. As used in the Kansas returning heroes' education act:

21 (a) "Kansas educational institution" means and includes area voca-
22 tional schools, area vocational-technical schools, community colleges, mu-
23 nicipal universities, state educational institutions, technical colleges and
24 accredited independent institutions.

25 (b) "Eligible veteran" means a member of the United States armed
26 forces honorably discharged on or after September 11, 2001: (1) Who is
27 either a domiciliary resident as defined by K.S.A. 76-729, and amend-
28 ments thereto, or is a graduate from a Kansas high school; (2) who did
29 not serve more than 10 years of active duty; and (3) who is enrolled at a
30 Kansas educational institution. The term eligible veteran does not include
31 within its meaning any veteran who is the holder of a baccalaureate or
32 higher academic degree or who does not hold a high school diploma or
33 general educational development (GED) credentials.

34 (c) "Kansas veterans' educational assistance program" or "program"
35 means the program established pursuant to the provisions of the Kansas
36 returning heroes' education act.

37 (d) "Educational program" means a program which is offered and
38 maintained by a Kansas educational institution and leads to the award of
39 a certificate, diploma or degree upon satisfactory completion of course-
40 work requirements.

41 Sec. 3. The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations
42 for administration of the Kansas returning heroes' education act and shall:

43 (a) Establish a mechanism to ensure distribution of funds for tuition

- 1 and fee reimbursement to Kansas educational institutions;
- 2 (b) enter into a cooperative relationship with the Kansas commission
3 on veterans' affairs to ensure efficient operation of the program;
- 4 (c) develop and effectuate a system of accountability for all disburse-
5 ments under the program and provide written reports as prescribed; and
- 6 (d) coordinate with the Kansas commission on veterans affairs a pro-
7 cedure to ensure initial and on-going eligibility of all eligible veterans who
8 are program participants.
- 9 Sec. 4. (a) Subject to the availability of appropriations for the Kansas
10 veterans' educational assistance program and within the limits of any such
11 appropriations, every eligible veteran who is enrolled at a Kansas edu-
12 cational institution and who is participating in the program shall be paid
13 the amount of tuition and required fees charged by the Kansas educa-
14 tional institution for enrollment in courses necessary to satisfy the require-
15 ments of an educational program.
- 16 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), eligible veterans
17 shall not be paid the amount of tuition and required fees charged for any
18 course repeated or taken in excess of the requirements for completion of
19 the educational program in which the eligible veteran is enrolled. The
20 amount of tuition and required fees paid an eligible veteran pursuant to
21 subsection (a) shall be at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate that
22 would be charged by the state educational institutions for enrollment of
23 the eligible veteran.
- 24 Sec. 5. (a) In order to remain eligible for participation in the pro-
25 gram, an eligible veteran must remain in good standing at the Kansas
26 educational institution where enrolled and make satisfactory progress to-
27 ward completion of the requirements of the educational program in which
28 enrolled.
- 29 (b) Upon failure of any person, who as an eligible veteran received
30 payments under the Kansas returning heroes' education act, to satisfy the
31 qualifications of subsection (a), such person shall pay to the state of Kan-
32 sas an amount equal to the total amount received. All amounts paid to
33 the state under this subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury
34 and credited to the Kansas veterans' educational assistance program re-
35 payment fund created by section 6, and amendments thereto.
- 36 Sec. 6. There is hereby created in the state treasury the Kansas vet-
37 erans' educational assistance program repayment fund. The state board
38 of regents shall remit all moneys received under section 5, and amend-
39 ments thereto, to the state treasurer at least monthly. Upon receipt of
40 each such remittance the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount
41 thereof in the state treasury, and such amount shall be credited to the
42 Kansas veterans' educational assistance program repayment fund. All ex-
43 penditures from the Kansas veterans' educational assistance program re-

1 payment fund shall be for payments of assistance under the Kansas re-
2 turning heroes' education act, and shall be made in accordance with
3 appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports
4 issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the executive officer of the state
5 board of regents or a person designated by the executive officer.

6 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
7 publication in the statute book.