

1 **VETERANS TUITION GAP PROGRAM ACT AMENDMENTS**

2 2017 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4

5 **LONG TITLE**

6 **General Description:**

7 This bill amends access to the Veterans Tuition Gap Program.

8 **Highlighted Provisions:**

9 This bill:

- 10 ▶ amends the federal programs to which the Veterans Tuition Gap Program (the
- 11 program) relates;
- 12 ▶ amends the institutions of higher education in which a qualifying veteran using the
- 13 program must be enrolled;
- 14 ▶ removes the requirement that a qualifying veteran using the program qualify for a
- 15 federal program; and
- 16 ▶ makes technical changes.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18 None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 AMENDS:

23 **53B-13b-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 141

24 **53B-13b-103**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 87

25

26 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

27 Section 1. Section **53B-13b-102** is amended to read:

28 **53B-13b-102. Definitions.**

29 As used in this chapter:

30 (1) "Federal program" means [~~the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of~~
31 ~~2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252;~~] a veterans educational assistance program established in:

32 (a) United States Code, Title 10, Chapter 1606, Educational Assistance for Members of

33 the Selected Reserve;

34 (b) United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 30, All-Volunteer Force Educational

35 Assistance Program;

36 (c) United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 31, Training and Rehabilitation for Veterans

37 with Service-Connected Disabilities;

38 (d) United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 32, Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational

39 Assistance; or

40 (e) United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 33, Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

41 (2) "Institution of higher education" or "institution" means [a]:

42 [~~(a) credit-granting higher education institution within the state system of higher~~

43 ~~education; or]~~

44 [~~(b) an institution of higher learning, as defined in the federal program, that is located~~

45 ~~in the state.]~~

46 (a) an institution of higher education listed in Subsection 53B-2-101(1); or

47 (b) a private, nonprofit, postsecondary institution headquartered in Utah that is

48 accredited by a regional accrediting organization that the board recognizes.

49 (3) "Program" means the Veterans Tuition Gap Program created in this chapter.

50 (4) (a) "Qualifying military veteran" means a veteran, as defined in Section 68-3-12.5,

51 who:

52 (i) is a resident student under Section 53B-8-102 and rules of the board;

53 (ii) is accepted into an institution and enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's

54 degree;

55 [~~(iii) has qualified for the federal program;]~~

56 [~~(iv)] (iii) (A) has [maximized] exhausted the federal benefit under [the] a federal~~

57 ~~program; or~~

58 (B) demonstrates that the veteran does not qualify to receive federal benefits under any

59 federal program; and

60 [~~(iv)] (iv) has not completed a bachelor's degree.~~

61 (b) "Qualifying military veteran" does not include a family member.

62 Section 2. Section **53B-13b-103** is amended to read:

63 **53B-13b-103. Establishment of the Veterans Tuition Gap Program.**

64 There is established a Veterans Tuition Gap Program to serve qualifying military
65 veterans with tuition assistance at institutions of higher education when:

66 (1) federal benefits under the federal program [~~are no longer~~] have been exhausted or
67 are not available; and

68 (2) a qualifying military veteran has not finished a bachelor's degree.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel