

**VETERANS TUITION GAP COVERAGE**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Luz Robles**

House Sponsor: Curtis Oda

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill provides grants to qualifying military veterans who have maximized certain federal benefits.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Veterans Tuition Gap Program, which provides recipients of federal Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act benefits with additional grants to complete a bachelor's degree at certain institutions of higher education when federal benefits have been maximized;
- ▶ directs the State Board of Regents to:
  - develop policies to implement and administer the program, within statutory guidelines; and
  - distribute the program money to institutions of higher education; and
- ▶ establishes time limits that qualified military veterans may receive program grants.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ to the State Board of Regents - Student Assistance, as an ongoing appropriation:
    - from the General Fund, \$125,000, which is nonlapsing for fiscal year 2014-15;
- and
- ▶ to the State Board of Regents - Student Assistance, as a one-time appropriation:
    - from the General Fund, \$75,000, which is nonlapsing for fiscal year 2014-15.

**Other Special Clauses:**

30 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

31 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32 ENACTS:

33 **53B-13b-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 **53B-13b-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 **53B-13b-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 **53B-13b-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

39 Section 1. Section **53B-13b-101** is enacted to read:

40 **CHAPTER 13b. VETERANS TUITION GAP PROGRAM ACT**

41 **53B-13b-101. Title.**

42 This chapter is known as the "Veterans Tuition Gap Program Act."

43 Section 2. Section **53B-13b-102** is enacted to read:

44 **53B-13b-102. Definitions.**

45 As used in this chapter:

46 (1) "Federal program" means the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of  
47 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252.

48 (2) "Institution of higher education" or "institution" means a:

49 (a) credit-granting higher education institution within the state system of higher  
50 education; or

51 (b) an institution of higher learning, as defined in the federal program, that is located in  
52 the state.

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

54 (4) (a) "Qualifying military veteran" means an individual who:

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

56 (ii) is accepted into an institution and enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's  
57 degree;

- 58 (iii) has qualified for the federal program;
- 59 (iv) has maximized the federal benefit under the federal program; and
- 60 (v) has not completed a bachelor's degree.
- 61 (b) "Qualifying military veteran" does not include a family member.

62 Section 3. Section **53B-13b-103** is enacted 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 federal benefits under  
66 the federal program are no longer available and a qualifying military veteran has not finished a  
67 bachelor's degree.

68 Section 4. Section **53B-13b-104** is enacted to read:

69 **53B-13b-104. Guidelines for administration of the program.**

70 (1) The board shall use the guidelines in this section to develop policies to implement  
71 and administer the program.

72 (2) (a) The board shall allocate money appropriated for the program to institutions to  
73 provide grants for qualifying military veterans.

74 (b) The board may not use program money for administrative costs or overhead.

75 (c) An institution may not use more than 3% of its program money for administrative  
76 costs or overhead.

77 (d) Money returned to the board under Subsection (3)(b) shall be used for future  
78 allocations to institutions.

79 (3) (a) An institution shall award a program grant to a qualifying military veteran on an  
80 annual basis but distribute the money one quarter or semester at a time, with continuing awards  
81 contingent upon the qualifying military veteran maintaining satisfactory academic progress as  
82 defined by the institution in published policies or rules.

83 (b) At the conclusion of the academic year, money distributed to an institution that was  
84 not awarded to a qualifying military veteran or used for allowed administrative purposes shall  
85 be returned to the board.

86 (4) A qualifying military veteran may receive a program grant until the earlier of the  
87 following occurs:

88 (a) the qualifying military veteran completes the requirements for a bachelor's degree;

89 or

90 (b) 12 months from the time that the qualifying military veteran receives an initial  
91 program grant.

92 (5) A qualifying military veteran who receives a program grant may only use the grant  
93 toward tuition at an institution of higher education in the state.

94 (6) The board may accept grants, gifts, bequests, and devises of real and personal  
95 property from any source for the purpose of awarding grants to qualifying military veterans in  
96 addition to those funded by the state.

97 **Section 5. Appropriation.**

98 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, for  
99 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, the following sums of money  
100 are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or reduced from amounts  
101 previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated. These sums of money are in  
102 addition to any amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2015.

103 To State Board of Regents - Student Assistance

104 From General Fund \$125,000

105 From General Fund, one-time \$75,000

106 Schedule of Programs:

107 Veterans Tuition Gap Program \$200,000

108 The Legislature intends that:

109 (1) under Section [63J-1-603](#) of the Utah Code, appropriations under this section not  
110 lapse at the close of fiscal year 2015; and

111 (2) the use of any nonlapsing funds is limited to the Veterans Tuition Gap Program.

112 **Section 6. Effective date.**

113 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

