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Veteran Scholarship Amendments
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Ann Millner
House Sponsor: Val L. Peterson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill removes a provision related to higher education tuition waivers for a Purple Heart recipient.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- removes a provision related to a Purple Heart recipient applying for a graduate program waiver;
- increases the limit for a tuition waiver; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53H-11-303, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 8

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

Section 1. Section **53H-11-303** is amended to read:

53H-11-303 . Tuition waivers for Purple Heart recipients.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Purple Heart recipient" means any Utah resident who is a military veteran and who has earned a Purple Heart award as a result of military service.
- (b)(i) "Tuition" means tuition at the rate for residents of the state.

- 29 (ii) "Tuition" excludes fees.
- 30 (2) An institution of higher education shall waive undergraduate tuition for each Purple
31 Heart recipient who:
- 32 (a) is admitted as a full-time, part-time, or summer school student in an undergraduate
33 program of study leading to a degree or certificate;
- 34 (b) is a resident student of the state as determined under Section 53H-11-202; and
- 35 (c) submits verification as provided in Subsection ~~[(3)]~~ (4) that the student is a Purple
36 Heart recipient.
- 37 (3)(a) An institution of higher education shall waive graduate tuition as provided in this
38 Subsection (3) for each Purple Heart recipient who:
- 39 (i) is admitted as a full-time, part-time, or summer school student in a graduate
40 program of study leading to a degree;
- 41 (ii) is a resident student of the state as determined under Section 53H-11-202; and
- 42 (iii) submits verification as provided in Subsection (4) that the student is a Purple
43 Heart recipient.
- 44 ~~[(b) To qualify for a graduate tuition waiver, a Purple Heart recipient shall apply for a
45 graduate program no later than 10 years from the day on which the Purple Heart
46 recipient completes an undergraduate degree.]~~
- 47 ~~[(e)]~~ (b) The total amount of all graduate tuition waived for a Purple Heart recipient may
48 not exceed ~~[\$10,000]~~ \$15,000.
- 49 ~~[(d)]~~ (c) A Purple Heart recipient may receive a graduate tuition waiver for a period of
50 time that does not exceed the lesser of:
- 51 (i) the time it takes for the Purple Heart recipient to complete a graduate degree; or
- 52 (ii) five years after the day on which the Purple Heart recipient is accepted to a
53 graduate program.
- 54 (4)(a) A Purple Heart recipient seeking a tuition waiver shall request the Department of
55 Veterans and Military Affairs to provide the verification required by Subsection (2)(c).
- 56 (b) The Department of Veterans and Military Affairs shall provide the verification upon
57 obtaining evidence satisfactory to the division that the student is a Purple Heart
58 recipient.
- 59 (5) The waiver in this section does not apply to fees.
- 60 (6) The board may request reimbursement from the Legislature for costs incurred in
61 providing the tuition waiver under this section.

62 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

63 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.