

Veteran Scholarship Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ann Millner

House Sponsor:

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.

(ii) "Tuition" excludes fees.

(ii) Tuition excludes fees

(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 [(c) ~~(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.