

Senator Luz Robles proposes the following substitute bill:

GI BILL TUITION GAP COVERAGE

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Robles

House Sponsor: Val L. Peterson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

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

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the GI Bill Tuition Gap Program, which provides recipients of the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits with additional grants to complete ~~§~~ **[an associate's or] a** ~~§~~ bachelor's degree at certain institutions of higher education when federal benefits have been maximized;
- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ 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:



- 26 • from the General Fund, \$250,000, which is nonlapsing for fiscal year 2012-13.

27 **Other Special Clauses:**

28 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2012.

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 ENACTS:

31 **53B-13b-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

32 **53B-13b-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 **53B-13b-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 **53B-13b-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

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

38 **CHAPTER 13b. GI BILL TUITION GAP PROGRAM ACT**

39 **53B-13b-101. Title.**

40 This chapter is known as the "GI Bill Tuition Gap Program Act."

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

42 **53B-13b-102. Definitions.**

43 As used in this chapter:

44 (1) "Federal program" means the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of
45 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252.

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

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

49 (b) private, nonprofit college or university in the state that is accredited by the
50 Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

51 (3) "Program" means the GI Bill Tuition Gap Program created in this chapter.

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

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

54 (ii) is accepted into an institution with a program leading to ~~§~~ → [an associate's degree or]

54a ← ~~§~~ a

55 bachelor's degree;

56 (iii) has qualified for the federal program;

- 57 (iv) has maximized the federal benefit under the federal program; and
 58 (v) has not completed ~~§~~→ [an associate's degree or] ←~~§~~ a bachelor's degree.
 59 (b) "Qualifying military veteran" does not include a family member.

60 Section 3. Section **53B-13b-103** is enacted to read:

61 **53B-13b-103. Establishment of the GI Bill Tuition Gap Program.**

62 There is established a GI Bill Tuition Gap Program to serve qualifying military veterans
 63 with tuition assistance at institutions of higher education when federal benefits under the
 64 federal program are no longer available and a qualifying military veteran has not finished ~~§~~→ [an
 65 associate's or] ←~~§~~ a bachelor's degree.

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

67 **53B-13b-104. Guidelines for administration of the program.**

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

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

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

73 (c) An institution may not use more an 3% of its program money for administrative
 74 costs or overhead.

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

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

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

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

86 (a) the qualifying military veteran completes the requirements for ~~§~~→ [an associate's or]
 86a a ←~~§~~
 87 bachelor's degree; or

88 (b) 12 months from the time when the qualifying military veteran receives an initial
89 program grant.

90 (5) A qualifying military veteran who receives a program grant may only use the grant
91 toward tuition ~~§~~→ **leading to a bachelor's degree** ←~~§~~ at an institution of higher education in the
91a state.

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

95 **Section 5. Appropriation.**

96 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the
97 following sums of money are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or
98 reduced from amounts previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated for the
99 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013. These are additions to any
100 amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2013.

101 To State Board of Regents - Student Assistance

102 From General Fund \$250,000

103 Schedule of Programs:

104 GI Bill Tuition Gap Program \$250,000

105 The Legislature intends that, under Section 63J-1-603 of the Utah Code, appropriations
106 under this section not lapse at the close of fiscal year 2013, the use of any non-lapsing funds is
107 limited to the GI Bill Tuition Gap Program.

108 **Section 6. Effective date.**

109 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2012.