

VETERANS TUITION GAP PROGRAM ACT AMENDMENTS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

House Sponsor: Paul Ray

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends access to the Veterans Tuition Gap Program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

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

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

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

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

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

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

30 **53B-13b-102. Definitions.**

31 As used in this chapter:

32 (1) "Federal program" means ~~[the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of~~
33 ~~2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252:]~~ a veterans educational assistance program established in:

34 (a) United States Code, Title 10, Chapter 1606, Educational Assistance for Members of
35 the Selected Reserve;

36 (b) United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 30, All-Volunteer Force Educational
37 Assistance Program;

38 (c) United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 31, Training and Rehabilitation for Veterans
39 with Service-Connected Disabilities;

40 (d) United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 32, Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational
41 Assistance; or

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

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

44 ~~[(a) credit-granting higher education institution within the state system of higher~~
45 ~~education; or]~~

46 ~~[(b) an institution of higher learning, as defined in the federal program, that is located in~~
47 ~~the state.]~~

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

49 (b) a private, nonprofit, postsecondary institution located in Utah that is accredited by a
50 recognized accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.

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

52 (4) (a) "Qualifying military veteran" means a veteran, as defined in Section 68-3-12.5,
53 who:

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

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

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

58 [(iv)] (iii) (A) has [~~maximized~~] exhausted the federal benefit under [~~the~~] a federal
59 program; or

60 (B) demonstrates that the veteran no longer qualifies to receive federal benefits under
61 any federal program; and

62 [(v)] (iv) has not completed a bachelor's degree.

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

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

65 **53B-13b-103. Establishment of the Veterans Tuition Gap Program.**

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

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

70 (2) a qualifying military veteran has not finished a bachelor's degree and is in the final
71 year of a bachelor's degree program.