

HOUSE BILL NO. 162

INTRODUCED BY R. PEPPERS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
5 MILITARY AFFAIRS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ELIGIBLE PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS; REVISING THE
6 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 10-2-118, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 **SECTION 1. SECTION 10-2-118, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:**

11 **"10-2-118. State scholarship for eligible purple heart recipients.** (1) There is a state scholarship
12 program for eligible purple heart recipients. The board shall administer the program pursuant to this section.

13 (2) A person is eligible for the scholarship provided in subsection (3) if the person:

14 (a) is a recipient of the purple heart as verified by an authentic department of defense form 214 (DD 214)
15 or other authentic military discharge form listing awards;

16 (b) is a resident of Montana; and

17 (c) has been enrolled for a full academic year as a full-time or part-time student at an accredited ~~state~~
18 public university, or state public vocational or technical school, or tribal college located in Montana either prior
19 to or after military service, has maintained a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 grade point scale, and
20 has reenrolled to continue the student's higher education at ~~an accredited state university or state vocational or~~
21 technical school the educational institution.

22 (3) Each student who meets the criteria set forth in subsection (2) is eligible to receive a \$1,000
23 scholarship as provided in subsection (4).

24 (4) (a) The ~~state~~ educational institution in which the eligible student is enrolled shall verify the student's
25 eligibility and apply to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, for the scholarship. Except as provided in
26 subsection (5), upon receipt of the scholarship application, the board shall pay the scholarship money to the
27 educational institution.

28 (b) The educational institution shall provide the scholarship money to the eligible student in the form of
29 a voucher that the eligible student may apply toward the cost of tuition, books, transportation, or housing.

30 (5) The scholarship may be paid only to the extent that funding is available. Scholarship awards must

1 be paid in the order that the applications are received by the board. An eligible purple heart recipient may receive
2 one scholarship a year for each year the recipient meets the criteria established in subsection (2)."

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4 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated ~~\$50,000~~ \$49,000 from the general
5 fund to the department of military affairs ~~for the biennium ending June 30, 2019~~, for the payment of purple heart
6 scholarships to eligible recipients under 10-2-118.

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8 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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