

HOUSE BILL NO. 158

INTRODUCED BY R. PEPPERS

1
2
3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE PURPLE HEART SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM;
5 INCLUDING RECIPIENTS OF HIGHER MEDALS FOR COMBAT-RELATED SERVICE; ESTABLISHING A
6 SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER AND AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING
7 SECTION 10-2-118, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

10
11 **Section 1.** Section 10-2-118, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"10-2-118. State scholarship for eligible ~~purple heart~~ armed forces medal recipients -- special**
13 **revenue account.** (1) There is a state scholarship program for eligible ~~purple heart~~ recipients of a purple heart
14 or a higher medal for combat-related service in the armed forces.

15 (2) The board shall administer the program pursuant to this section.

16 ~~(2)~~(3) A person is eligible for the scholarship provided for in subsection ~~(3)~~ (4) if the person:

17 (a) is a recipient of the purple heart or a higher medal for combat-related service in the armed forces as
18 verified by an authentic department of defense form 214 (DD 214) or other authentic military discharge form listing
19 awards;

20 (b) is a resident of Montana; and

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

26 ~~(3)~~(4) Each student who meets the criteria set forth in subsection ~~(2)~~ (3) is eligible to receive a \$1,000
27 scholarship as provided in subsection ~~(4)~~ (5).

28 ~~(4)~~(5) (a) The ~~state~~ educational institution in which the eligible student is enrolled shall verify the
29 student's eligibility and apply to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, for the scholarship. Except as
30 provided in subsection ~~(5)~~ (6), upon receipt of the scholarship application, the board shall pay the scholarship

1 money to the educational institution.

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

4 ~~(5)(6)~~ The scholarship may be paid only to the extent that funding is available. Scholarship awards must
5 be paid in the order that the applications are received by the board. An eligible recipient may receive one
6 scholarship a year for each year the recipient meets the criteria established in subsection (3).

7 (7) There is a special revenue account to the credit of the department of military affairs for the purposes
8 of this section. Money in the account may be used only to administer the scholarship program and to pay
9 scholarships to eligible recipients under this section."

10
11 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Transfer and appropriation -- funding included in base budget --
12 periodic review. (1) The state treasurer shall transfer \$50,000 from the general fund to the special revenue
13 account established in [section 1(7)] by August 15, 2019.

14 (2) There is appropriated \$50,000 from the account established in [section 1(7)] to the department of
15 military affairs for the purposes established in [section 1] for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019.

16 (3) The department shall include \$50,000 for the scholarship program in its base budget for the biennium
17 beginning July 1, 2021, shall periodically review the sufficiency of this amount, and shall recommend changes
18 to this amount as considered appropriate to pay the scholarships under [section 1].

19
20 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2019.

21 - END -