

HOUSE BILL NO. 158

INTRODUCED BY R. PEPPERS, K. ABBOTT, B. SMITH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) is a resident of Montana; and

(c) has been enrolled for a full academic year as a full-time or part-time student at an accredited ~~state public~~ university, ~~or state public~~ vocational or technical school, or tribal college located in Montana either prior to or after military service, has maintained a grade point average of at least ~~2.0~~ 3.0 on a 4.0 grade point scale, and has reenrolled to continue the student's higher education at ~~an accredited state university or state vocational or technical school~~ the educational institution.

~~(3)~~(4) Each (A) ~~EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)~~(B), EACH student who meets the criteria set forth in subsection (2) (3) is eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship as provided in subsection ~~(4)~~ (5).

(B) AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT WHO DOES NOT HAVE ANY OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR TUITION BECAUSE THE STUDENT IS A RECIPIENT OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATION BENEFITS IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION.

