

FISCAL NOTE

SB 1729 - HB 1607

April 6, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL:

- Provides that every *dependent child* in this state under the age of 21, whose parent was killed, died as a direct result of injuries received, or has been officially reported as being either a prisoner of war or missing in action while serving honorably as a member of the United States armed forces during a qualifying period of armed conflict, or the *spouse* of such veteran, is entitled to a waiver of tuition and fees and shall be admitted without cost to any of the state institutions of higher education.
- Defines qualifying period of armed conflict as any hostile military operation for which the following United States military campaign medals are individually authorized:
 1. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; or
 2. Southwest Asia Service Medal with at least one bronze star appurtenance for specific military campaign participation by the veteran; or
 3. Vietnam Service Medal with at least one bronze star appurtenance for specific military campaign participation by the veteran; or
 4. Kosovo Campaign Medal with at least one bronze star appurtenance for specific military campaign participation by the veteran; or
 5. United States Department of Defense Prisoner of War Medal for former prisoners of war and former missing in action service members.
- Removes the requirement that a delayed payment service charge be imposed if an extension is granted to defer payment of the required tuition and fees until the student's monetary benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or other governmental agency has been received. This provision applies to those students who are receiving monetary VA education benefits directly.

Present law provides free tuition and fees to a dependent child under the age of 21, whose parent was killed, died as a direct result of injuries received, or has been officially reported as missing in action while serving honorably as a member of the United States armed forces during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In April of 1996, the University of Tennessee and the State Board of Regents agreed to include dependent children whose parent(s) served in the Persian Gulf conflict as being eligible for free tuition and fees.

SB 1729 - HB 1607

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant
Decrease State Revenues - Not Significant

Assumes that:

- the number of eligible spouses or children of veterans or former POWs of World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War or Kosovo who would choose to attend a higher education institution is relatively small. Therefore, any increase in state expenditures to offset lost tuition revenues to the schools is estimated to be not significant.
- to the extent there may be eligible dependent children and spouses of veterans of future wars, state expenditures could increase. However, it is not known if and when another conflict will occur or how many Tennesseans who are in the armed services at the time of the conflict will be killed, die as a direct result of injuries sustained in such conflict, be missing in action, or be determined to be a prisoner of war.
- the decrease in revenue from the elimination of the delayed payment service charge would be not significant since the service charge is only imposed if the institution allows the deferment extension.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director