

1 SB119
2 216807-3
3 By Senators Barfoot and Butler
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs
5 First Read: 18-JAN-22

1 SB119

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4 ENGROSSED

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6
7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

10
11 Relating to the Alabama G.I. and Dependents'
12 Educational Benefit Act; to amend Sections 31-6-2, as amended
13 by Act 2021-444, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-2.1, as added by
14 Act 2021-444, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-3, 31-6-4, as amended
15 by Act 2021-84, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-5, 31-6-6, 31-6-9,
16 31-6-11, 31-6-12, 31-6-13, 31-6-14, 31-6-15, 31-6-15.1, and
17 31-6-16, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that scholarship
18 benefits may be used for instruction at any public or private
19 two-year or four-year institution of higher education located
20 in the state that receives state funds; to remove an obsolete
21 correspondence course benefit; to make nonsubstantive,
22 technical revisions to update the existing code language to
23 current style; and to repeal Section 31-6-8, Code of Alabama
24 1975, relating to Alabama G.I. Scholarships.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

26 Section 1. Sections 31-6-2, as amended by Act
27 2021-444, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-2.1, as added by Act

1 2021-444, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-3, 31-6-4, as amended by
2 Act 2021-84, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-5, 31-6-6, 31-6-9,
3 31-6-11, 31-6-12, 31-6-13, 31-6-14, 31-6-15, 31-6-15.1, and
4 31-6-16 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as
5 follows:

6 "§31-6-2.

7 "For the purposes of this chapter, the following
8 terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them by this
9 section:

10 "(1) ARMED FORCES. ~~The term includes~~ Includes the
11 United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space
12 Force, and Coast Guard. ~~The term also includes the units of~~
13 ~~those branches of the services having women troops and the~~
14 ~~Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Nurse Corps.~~

15 "(2) COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION AND POSTSECONDARY
16 PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES. Has the
17 same meaning as in 20 U.S.C. § 1140.

18 "~~(3) HUSBAND. Spouse.~~

19 "(3) QUALIFYING PRIVATE SCHOOL. Any regionally
20 accredited private two-year or four-year institution of higher
21 education physically located in the state that receives a
22 direct appropriation from the state or whose resident students
23 may receive appropriations from the state through the Alabama
24 Student Grant Program.

25 "(4) QUALIFYING SCHOOL. An institution which is
26 either a qualifying state school or a qualifying private
27 school as defined by this chapter.

1 "(5) QUALIFYING STATE SCHOOL. An Alabama public
2 two-year or four-year institution of higher education.

3 "(6) SPOUSE. Husband or wife.

4 "~~(4)~~ (7) TUITION. Fees for instruction.

5 "~~(5)~~ (8) TUITION AND FEES. All fees known and classed
6 as instructional fees.

7 "~~(6)~~ (9) WIDOW or WIDOWER. An individual whose spouse
8 is deceased and who has not remarried.

9 "~~(7) WIFE. Spouse.~~

10 "§31-6-2.1.

11 "For the purposes of this chapter, in addition to
12 any other benefits granted under this chapter, any child of a
13 disabled or deceased veteran or otherwise eligible for
14 educational benefits under this chapter who is admitted to
15 attend and attends a comprehensive transition and
16 postsecondary program for students with intellectual
17 disabilities at a state four-year ~~college or university~~
18 institution of higher education shall be eligible to receive
19 benefits equal to the benefits provided pursuant to this
20 chapter to any other child eligible for educational benefits
21 in an undergraduate course of study at a state four-year
22 ~~college or university~~ institution of higher education under
23 this chapter without regard as to whether the program is a
24 degree, certificate, or non-degree program.

25 "§31-6-3.

26 "Tuition benefits received pursuant to Sections
27 31-6-4 through 31-6-6 shall be called "Alabama G.I.

1 Dependents' Scholarships." ~~Tuition benefits received under~~
2 ~~Section 31-6-8 shall be called "Alabama G.I. Scholarships."~~

3 "§31-6-4.

4 "(a) Any child whose father or mother:

5 "(1) Was killed or died in line of duty or is listed
6 as missing in action or is/was a prisoner of war or whose
7 death or permanent total disabilities were service-connected
8 while serving as a member of the armed forces;

9 "(2) Died from a disability incurred from military
10 service, as established by the State Department of Veterans'
11 Affairs, after having been discharged under conditions other
12 than dishonorable and after having served at least 90 days
13 consecutively in the armed forces prior to and/or subsequent
14 to the date on which the disability occurred, or who was
15 honorably discharged by reason of ~~wartime~~, a qualifying
16 service-connected disability after serving less than 90 days;

17 "(3) Was killed or died while on state active duty
18 status as defined in Section 31-12-1, or whose death results
19 proximately and within three years from an injury received
20 while on state active duty status; or

21 "(4) Has been assigned 100 percent permanent or
22 total disability rated by the United States Veterans'
23 Administration, or was discharged or retired from the armed
24 forces with a 40 percent or more disability and maintained
25 that percentage ~~(such person to be deemed to be a disabled~~
26 ~~veteran); may attend any Alabama state institution of higher~~
27 ~~learning, college, or university~~ qualifying school for a

1 period of five standard academic years, not to exceed 45
2 months or the equivalent of 45 months if enrolled part-time,
3 pursuant to the tuition reimbursement guidelines as provided
4 in subsection (c) ~~for such college or university attendance,~~
5 ~~or any such child may take a prescribed course in any Alabama~~
6 ~~state-supported community or technical college for the length~~
7 ~~of any prescribed course of study of his or her choosing, and~~
8 ~~if such course does not require the full 45 months, then~~
9 ~~training for the remainder of the 45 months' entitlement may~~
10 ~~be taken at a state-supported college or university only,~~
11 ~~pursuant to the tuition reimbursement guidelines as provided~~
12 ~~in subsection (c).~~ Training under this section must be
13 initiated prior to the child's thirtieth birthday, and must be
14 completed within eight years after its initiation, except for
15 delays caused by military service during the training period,
16 and in no case may training be received under this chapter
17 beyond the thirty-eighth birthday of ~~such~~ the child.

18 " (b) ~~Except as provided in Section 31-6-11(e), the~~
19 The educational benefits provided by this section to children
20 making application for benefits for the first time beginning
21 with the fall term of the 2014-2015 academic year, and
22 thereafter, shall be limited to undergraduate courses of study
23 only, and the value of tuition paid shall be limited to the
24 in-state tuition rate of the ~~Alabama state institution of~~
25 ~~higher learning, college, or university~~ qualifying school
26 attended.

1 "(c) For those first filing for benefits under this
2 chapter on or after July 31, 2017, and for those attending a
3 qualifying private school, the educational benefit shall be
4 for tuition reimbursement and books and fees reimbursement.
5 The value of tuition paid per semester hour (or equivalent)
6 shall be limited to the rate of the Department of Defense
7 Tuition Assistance Cap. The value of the books and fees paid
8 per semester shall be limited to one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
9 per student.

10 "(d) For the purpose of the minimum disability
11 requirement provided for in subdivision (a) (4), the dependent
12 of any veteran whose disability rating as of July 31, 2017, is
13 at least 20 percent but less than 40 percent shall qualify for
14 the benefits of this chapter, provided that the dependent
15 shall file application for such benefits before July 31, 2023,
16 and the dependent is reasonably expected to be eligible to
17 attend ~~an Alabama institution of higher learning, college, or~~
18 ~~university~~ a qualifying school in the next academic year.

19 "§31-6-5.

20 "(a) Any ~~wife or husband~~ spouse or ~~unmarried~~ widow
21 ~~or widower~~ whose spouse, during their marriage:

22 "(1) Was killed or died in the line of duty or is
23 listed as missing in action or is/was a prisoner of war while
24 serving as a member of the armed forces;

25 "(2) Died from a disability incurred from military
26 service; or

1 "(3) Is 100 percent permanently and totally
2 disabled, whose permanent and total disabilities were
3 service-connected; shall be entitled to training in any
4 ~~Alabama state-supported college or university~~ qualifying
5 school for a period of five standard academic years, not to
6 exceed 45 months, or to training for the equivalent of 45
7 months if enrolled part-time ~~or to training in a prescribed~~
8 ~~course in a state-supported community or technical college,~~
9 ~~and if such course does not require the full 45 months, then~~
10 ~~training for the remainder of such 45 months' entitlement may~~
11 ~~be taken at a state-supported college or university only,~~
12 pursuant to the tuition reimbursement guidelines as provided
13 in subsection (c). One change of program will be allowed
14 without counseling. All training received under this section
15 must be completed within eight years after ~~the beginning date~~
16 ~~of the course~~ its initiation. This section shall not apply to
17 the spouse of any ~~such~~ deceased serviceman or veteran who has
18 remarried prior to applying for and obtaining educational
19 benefits under this section, and should any such spouse of
20 ~~such~~ the deceased serviceman or veteran remarry during the
21 time he or she is in attendance upon any of the qualifying
22 ~~schools, colleges, or universities~~ mentioned in this section,
23 then he or she shall pay tuition and fees for the course of
24 study or attendance upon ~~such~~ the qualifying school, ~~college,~~
25 ~~or university~~ from the time of the remarriage. ~~The benefits~~
26 ~~provided under this section shall be in addition to federal~~
27 ~~government benefits.~~

1 "~~Except as provided in Section 31-6-11(e), the~~
2 The educational benefits provided by this section to ~~wives,~~
3 ~~husbands, and unmarried spouses and widows or widowers~~ making
4 application for benefits for the first time beginning with the
5 fall term of the 2014-2015 academic year, and thereafter,
6 shall be limited to undergraduate courses of study only, and
7 the value of tuition paid shall be limited to the in-state
8 tuition rate of the ~~Alabama state-supported college or~~
9 university qualifying school attended.

10 "(c) For those first filing for benefits under this
11 chapter on or after July 31, 2017, and for those attending a
12 qualifying private school, the educational benefit shall be
13 for tuition reimbursement and books and fees reimbursement.
14 The value of tuition paid per semester hour (or equivalent)
15 shall be limited to the rate of the Department of Defense
16 Tuition Assistance Cap. The value of the books and fees paid
17 per semester shall be limited to ~~\$1,000~~ one thousand dollars
18 (\$1,000) per student.

19 "§31-6-6.

20 "(a) The spouse and children of any veteran who is
21 suffering from 40 to 90 percent service-connected disability
22 brought about from service in the Armed Forces of the United
23 States, or the ~~unmarried widow or widower~~ and children of a
24 deceased veteran who was suffering from 40 percent or more of
25 service-connected disability at the time of death, ~~provided~~
26 ~~such disabilities as are mentioned herein are incurred from~~
27 ~~military service,~~ as established by the State Department of

1 Veterans' Affairs, shall be entitled to the following
2 educational advantages and opportunities:

3 "(1) The spouse or ~~unmarried widow or widower~~, as
4 the case may be, shall be entitled to up to 27 months of
5 schooling, or the equivalent of 27 months if enrolled
6 ~~part-time, in any Alabama state-supported institution of~~
7 ~~higher learning, college, or university, or to a prescribed~~
8 ~~course in any Alabama state-supported community or technical~~
9 ~~college~~ qualifying school, pursuant to the tuition
10 reimbursement guidelines as provided in subsection (d). One
11 change of program will be allowed without counseling. ~~It is~~
12 ~~provided, however, that all~~ All training received at ~~state~~
13 ~~institutions of higher learning or state-supported community~~
14 ~~or technical college~~ qualifying schools under this subdivision
15 must be completed within a period of six years after ~~the~~
16 ~~beginning date of such two-year course or such prescribed~~
17 ~~course~~ its initiation.

18 "(2) Each child of ~~such a~~ disabled veteran shall be
19 entitled to five standard academic years, or the equivalent of
20 45 months if enrolled part-time, in any ~~Alabama~~
21 ~~state-supported institution of higher learning, college, or~~
22 ~~university, or to a prescribed course at an Alabama~~
23 ~~state-supported community or technical college. If the course~~
24 ~~of training at the community or technical college does not~~
25 ~~require the full time to which such child is entitled~~
26 ~~hereunder, then the remaining entitlement may be taken in a~~
27 ~~state-supported college or university only,~~ qualifying school

1 pursuant to the tuition reimbursement guidelines as provided
2 in subsection (d). One change of program will be allowed
3 without counseling. Training under this subdivision must be
4 initiated prior to the child's twenty-sixth birthday, and must
5 be completed within eight years after its initiation, except
6 for delays caused by military service during the training
7 period, and in no case may training be received under this
8 section beyond the thirty-fourth birthday of ~~such~~ the child.

9 "(b) For the purpose of the minimum disability
10 requirement provided for in subsection (a), the dependent of
11 any veteran whose disability rating as of July 31, 2017, is at
12 least 20 percent but less than 40 percent shall qualify for
13 the benefits of this chapter, provided that the dependent
14 shall file application for ~~such~~ benefits before July 31, 2023,
15 and the dependent is reasonably expected to be eligible to
16 attend ~~an Alabama institution of higher learning, college or~~
17 ~~university~~ a qualifying school in the next academic year.

18 "~~(c) Except as provided in Section 31-6-11(e), the~~
19 The educational benefits provided by this section to spouses,
20 children, and ~~unmarried widows and widowers~~ making application
21 for benefits for the first time beginning with the fall term
22 of the 2014-2015 academic year, and thereafter, shall be
23 limited to undergraduate courses of study only, and the value
24 of tuition paid shall be limited to the in-state tuition rate
25 of the ~~Alabama state-supported institution of higher learning,~~
26 ~~college, or university~~ qualifying school attended.

1 "(d) For those first filing for benefits under this
2 chapter on or after July 31, 2017, and for those attending a
3 qualifying private school, the educational benefit shall be
4 for tuition reimbursement and books and fees reimbursement.
5 The value of tuition paid per semester hour (or equivalent)
6 shall be limited to the rate of the Department of Defense
7 Tuition Assistance Cap. The value of the books and fees paid
8 per semester shall be limited to ~~\$1,000~~ one thousand dollars
9 (\$1,000) per student.

10 ~~"(e) The benefits provided under this section shall~~
11 ~~be available in addition to federal government benefits. Any~~
12 ~~child, spouse, or unmarried widow who was denied full~~
13 ~~entitlement, 27 or 45 months, whichever the case may be, shall~~
14 ~~have the remainder of their entitlement reinstated under this~~
15 ~~chapter.~~

16 "§31-6-9.

17 "(a) For those dependents who first file for
18 benefits under this chapter prior to July 31, 2017, the
19 benefits provided under this chapter shall be in addition to
20 any other state or federal benefits to which that dependent
21 may be entitled.

22 "(b) For dependents who first file for benefits
23 under this chapter on or after July 31, 2017, and for those
24 attending a qualifying private school:

25 "(1) To the extent permitted by law, prior to
26 applying any benefits provided for under this chapter,
27 institutional certifying officials and financial aid officials

1 shall first apply other federal, state, institutional, and
2 third party scholarships and grants awarded to the dependent
3 for that academic period for payment of required educational
4 expenses during an academic period.

5 "(2) A completed Free Application for Federal
6 Student Aid (FAFSA), or the equivalent, must be submitted to
7 the United States Department of Education for each year in
8 which the dependent receives benefits under this chapter. The
9 dependent shall have applied for all federal student financial
10 aid grants, including, but not limited to, Pell Grants,
11 Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, and Education and
12 Training Vouchers, identified as being available for the
13 student's application by Federal Student Aid, an office of the
14 United States Department of Education, or its successor
15 agency.

16 "(3) All students receiving educational benefits
17 under this chapter and the ~~educational institutions~~ qualifying
18 schools they attend must comply with the standards of
19 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as required for Title IV
20 benefits under the Higher Education Act and as defined by that
21 ~~education institution~~ qualifying school. Those students who
22 would no longer be eligible to receive Title IV benefits due
23 to a failure to meet SAP standards shall no longer be eligible
24 to receive benefits under this chapter. ~~Education institutions~~
25 Each qualifying school shall notify the ~~Alabama State~~
26 Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs of any student who
27 currently holds a certificate of eligibility for benefits

1 under this chapter who is no longer eligible to receive
2 benefits due to a failure to meet SAP standards and the
3 effective date of that change in eligibility.

4 "(4) The dependent shall ensure that all qualifying
5 schools ~~they attend~~ he or she attends under this program are
6 authorized to release such personally identifiable information
7 to the ~~Alabama~~ State Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs
8 as is required for the determination of that dependent's
9 continued eligibility and as required for the completion of
10 all reports required by law.

11 "(c) Any dependent who receives benefits under this
12 chapter, and whose benefit period is interrupted due to
13 accident, injury, or illness, shall have the benefit time
14 period which is lost due to such accident, illness, or injury
15 restored to him or her.

16 "(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
17 chapter to the contrary, dependents of any veteran whose
18 disability rating, if any, prior to May 23, 2017, was less
19 than 20 percent, but who had a claim for compensation pending
20 prior to that date which resulted in a final award by the
21 United States Department of Veterans Affairs of at least 20
22 percent, shall be eligible for education benefits as the
23 chapter read prior to May 23, 2017, if the dependent files an
24 application for benefits under this chapter within six months
25 of that final adjudication and provides proof satisfactory to
26 the ~~Alabama~~ State Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs
27 that ~~they qualify~~ he or she qualifies under this exception and

1 currently ~~meet~~ satisfies the eligibility requirements as the
2 chapter read prior to May 23, 2017.

3 "§31-6-11.

4 "~~(a) Before an application of any veteran for~~
5 ~~benefits under this chapter can be approved, such veteran~~
6 ~~shall submit proof, satisfactory to the State Department of~~
7 ~~Veterans' Affairs, of all of the following:~~

8 "~~(1) Identification.~~

9 "~~(2) Having been a permanent resident of the State~~
10 ~~of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to his or~~
11 ~~her entrance into service.~~

12 "~~(3) An honorable discharge or other proof of~~
13 ~~honorable termination of at least 24 months of service in the~~
14 ~~armed forces, or if such veteran was discharged or released by~~
15 ~~reason of service-connected disability then proof of honorable~~
16 ~~termination of less than 24 months of service is acceptable.~~

17 "~~(b)~~ (a) Before the application of a wife spouse,
18 widow, or child of a disabled veteran or a deceased veteran or
19 serviceman for educational benefits under this chapter is
20 approved, proof, satisfactory to the State Department of
21 Veterans' Affairs, must be submitted of all of the following:

22 "(1) Establishing the identification of ~~such wife~~
23 the spouse, widow, or child as the wife spouse, widow, or
24 child of the veteran or serviceman, as the case may be.

25 "(2) Of the veteran or serviceman having been a
26 permanent resident of the State of Alabama for at least one
27 year immediately prior~~7~~ to his or her entrance into service,

1 or if the applicant is the ~~wife~~ spouse, widow, or child of a
2 totally and permanently disabled veteran, then proof either of
3 the veteran's having been a permanent resident of the State of
4 Alabama for at least one year prior to his or her entrance
5 into service or proof that the veteran has been a bona fide
6 resident of this state for at least five years immediately
7 prior to the filing of the application for benefits under this
8 chapter or immediately prior to his or her death if the
9 veteran is deceased.

10 "(3) Of the veteran or serviceman having been a
11 permanent resident of the State of Alabama for at least two
12 years immediately prior to the filing of the application for
13 benefits under this chapter or has filed an Alabama income tax
14 return as a resident individual for the previous ~~ten~~ 10 years
15 or is a current resident and was discharged from active duty
16 within the prior 12 months. If the veteran or serviceman is
17 deceased, his or her dependent may still qualify if the
18 veteran or serviceman met this residency requirement at the
19 time of his or her death. Alabama income tax return
20 information, including, but not limited to, the type of return
21 filed, necessary to show the residency requirements under this
22 chapter have been met is hereby exempted from the
23 confidentiality provisions of Section 40-2A-10, and shall be
24 provided by the Department of Revenue to the State Department
25 of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs upon request. Such requests and
26 the significance of the information provided, shall be
27 requested by the State Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans'

1 Affairs as necessary when other residency information is not
2 available, and the department shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules and
3 procedures to effect the provisions of this section as needed.

4 "(4) Of the ~~wife~~ spouse, widow, or child being a
5 current resident of the State of Alabama.

6 "(5) An honorable discharge or other proof of
7 honorable termination of service of the veteran or serviceman
8 in the armed forces for a period of at least 90 days ~~between~~
9 ~~the dates mentioned in this chapter~~, or service of less than
10 90 days if the veteran or serviceman was discharged or
11 released by reason of a qualifying service-connected
12 disability.

13 ~~"(c) The service upon which any benefits are awarded~~
14 ~~under this chapter shall have been rendered during wartime or~~
15 ~~under extrahazardous conditions, except as provided otherwise~~
16 ~~in this section; and this condition of eligibility shall be~~
17 ~~established by the State Department of Veterans' Affairs.~~

18 ~~"(d) The service requirements provided for in~~
19 ~~subsection (c) shall not apply to any person making~~
20 ~~application for benefits under this chapter beginning with the~~
21 ~~fall term of the 2014-2015 academic year, and thereafter.~~

22 ~~"(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this~~
23 ~~chapter to the contrary, any person denied educational~~
24 ~~benefits provided by this chapter based solely upon the~~
25 ~~service requirements provided for in subsection (c) shall be~~
26 ~~eligible to receive the benefits the person would otherwise~~
27 ~~have been entitled to had their application been approved at~~

1 ~~the time of initial application, except as provided otherwise~~
2 ~~in this subsection. Any age limitation on the benefits~~
3 ~~provided by this chapter shall be extended in like manner for~~
4 ~~any such previously denied person to ensure that the person~~
5 ~~has the opportunity to receive all benefits they would~~
6 ~~otherwise have been entitled. In order to receive any~~
7 ~~educational benefits, such the previously denied person must~~
8 ~~reapply for educational benefits with the State Department of~~
9 ~~Veterans' Affairs and begin use of the educational benefits no~~
10 ~~later than the fall term of the 2015-2016 academic year. The~~
11 ~~value of tuition paid for any such previously denied person~~
12 ~~shall be limited to the in-state tuition rate of the Alabama~~
13 ~~state institution of higher learning, college, or university~~
14 ~~state-supported school attended.~~

15 ~~"(f)~~ (b) For those first filing for benefits under
16 this chapter on or after July 31, 2017, and for those
17 attending a qualifying private school, the educational benefit
18 shall be for tuition reimbursement and books and fees
19 reimbursement. The value of tuition paid per semester hour (or
20 equivalent) shall be limited to the rate of the Department of
21 Defense Tuition Assistance Cap. The value of the books and
22 fees paid per semester shall be limited to ~~\$1,000~~ one thousand
23 dollars (\$1,000) per student.

24 "§31-6-12.

25 "The State Department of Veterans' Affairs is hereby
26 charged with the duty of informing the veterans and their
27 dependents in this state, through its county service

1 commissioners and all other sources at its command, of the
2 provisions of this chapter in order that those veterans and
3 their dependents may know of the benefits provided in this
4 chapter. The State Department of Veterans' Affairs shall
5 furnish and assist in preparing and producing all necessary
6 blanks, forms, and other matters necessary for the veterans,
7 their ~~wives~~ spouses, widows, or children to obtain the
8 benefits provided under this chapter. The State Service
9 Commissioner shall cause to be forwarded to the ~~state~~
10 ~~institution of higher learning, college or university, or~~
11 ~~state trade~~ qualifying school of the applicant's choice, a
12 certificate of eligibility and entitlement, or other necessary
13 proof for the veteran, his ~~wife~~ or her spouse, widow, or child
14 to obtain the benefits made available hereby.

15 "§31-6-13.

16 "The president or head of each ~~state institution of~~
17 ~~higher learning or college or university or state trade~~
18 qualifying school must inform the faculty members of each
19 respective institution of the provisions and benefits of this
20 chapter, who in turn shall inform the ~~wives~~ spouses, widows,
21 and children of veterans attending such institutions as to
22 their rights and benefits under the provisions of this
23 chapter.

24 "§31-6-14.

25 The county superintendent of education and the city
26 superintendent of schools in each respective county and city
27 ~~must~~ shall inform the teachers of their county and city of the

1 provisions and benefits of this chapter, who in turn shall
2 inform the children of veterans as to their rights and
3 benefits under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter.

4 "§31-6-15.

5 "(a) The benefits provided in this chapter shall be
6 paid from an annual appropriation from the Education Trust
7 Fund to reimburse every ~~Alabama state institution of higher~~
8 ~~learning, college, university, or Alabama community or~~
9 ~~technical college~~ qualifying school in which benefits are
10 given to veterans, their ~~wives~~ spouses, widows, or children
11 under this chapter. ~~Such reimbursement~~ Reimbursement shall be
12 made timely at the end of each academic quarter or semester
13 for all tuition reimbursements for the certified invoices
14 submitted by ~~such~~ the institution or school to the State
15 Department of Veterans' Affairs, and shall be supported by
16 names of the students receiving such benefits, together with
17 the amounts claimed for each student. Any amount of in-state
18 tuition, books, or fees not paid by the combination of
19 federal, state, and third party funds may be billed to
20 students receiving such benefits or waived by the institution
21 or school.

22 "(b) The Department of Examiners of Public Accounts
23 may audit the records of any two-year or four-year institution
24 of higher education which receives any reimbursement as a
25 result of this chapter to the same extent, degree, and scope
26 as audits performed on other public educational institutions,
27 and the institution shall submit to the Legislature and the

1 State Department of Veterans' Affairs each year, before any
2 subsequent reimbursement may be applied for or considered, a
3 full accounting of any receipts, disbursements, assets,
4 liabilities, and other resources as of the date of the close
5 of the immediately preceding academic year.

6 "§31-6-15.1.

7 "The State Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs
8 shall report to the Legislature, l by January 1st of each year,
9 the number of applicants approved in the previous fiscal year
10 and those approved as of the reporting date for the current
11 fiscal year, the number of students by years of remaining
12 eligibility, and the costs of the previous fiscal year's
13 expenditures to the program by each category of ~~public~~
14 ~~institution of higher learning~~ qualifying school to include
15 the number of students who attended each of those ~~institutions~~
16 schools.

17 "§31-6-16.

18 "Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as
19 lowering the standards or requirements, or as to making any
20 exceptions thereto for entrance into any of the ~~state~~
21 qualifying schools ~~or institutions~~ affected by this chapter.
22 All applicants, in order to obtain the educational benefits of
23 this chapter, must first meet all scholastic and other
24 requirements for entrance into any of the qualifying schools
25 coming within the purview of this chapter."

26 Section 2. Section 31-6-8, Code of Alabama 1975,
27 relating to Alabama G.I. Scholarships, is repealed.

1 Section 3. This act shall become effective on June
2 1, 2022, following its passage and approval by the Governor,
3 or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate
committee on Veterans and Military Affairs 18-JAN-22

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-
dar with 1 substitute and..... 02-FEB-22

Read for the third time and passed as amended 15-FEB-22

Yeas 27
Nays 0

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.