

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

1 SB119

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3
4 ENROLLED, An Act,

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

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. Sections 31-6-2, as amended by Act
21 2021-444, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-2.1, as added by Act
22 2021-444, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-3, 31-6-4, as amended by
23 Act 2021-84, 2021 Regular Session, 31-6-5, 31-6-6, 31-6-9,
24 31-6-11, 31-6-12, 31-6-13, 31-6-14, 31-6-15, 31-6-15.1, and

1 31-6-16 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

2 "§31-6-2.

3 "For the purposes of this chapter, the following
4 terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them by this
5 section:

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

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

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

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

21 "(4) QUALIFYING SCHOOL. An institution which is
22 either a qualifying state school or a qualifying private
23 school as defined by this chapter.

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

1 "(6) SPOUSE. Husband or wife.

2 "~~(4)~~ (7) TUITION. Fees for instruction.

3 "~~(5)~~ (8) TUITION AND FEES. All fees known and classed
4 as instructional fees.

5 "~~(6)~~ (9) WIDOW ~~or WIDOWER~~. An individual whose spouse
6 is deceased and who has not remarried.

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

8 "§31-6-2.1.

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

23 "§31-6-3.

24 "Tuition benefits received pursuant to Sections
25 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~~

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

20 " (b) ~~Except as provided in Section 31-6-11(e), the~~
21 The educational benefits provided by this section to children
22 making application for benefits for the first time beginning
23 with the fall term of the 2014-2015 academic year, and
24 thereafter, shall be limited to undergraduate courses of study
25 only, and the value of tuition paid shall be limited to the

1 in-state tuition rate of the ~~Alabama state institution of~~
2 ~~higher learning, college, or university~~ qualifying school
3 attended.

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

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

22 "§31-6-5.

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

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

4 "(2) Died from a disability incurred from military
5 service; or

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

1 time he or she is in attendance upon any of the qualifying
2 ~~schools, colleges, or universities~~ mentioned in this section,
3 then he or she shall pay tuition and fees for the course of
4 study or attendance upon ~~such~~ the qualifying school, ~~college,~~
5 ~~or university~~ from the time of the remarriage. ~~The benefits~~
6 ~~provided under this section shall be in addition to federal~~
7 ~~government benefits.~~

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

17 " (c) For those first filing for benefits under this
18 chapter on or after July 31, 2017, and for those attending a
19 qualifying private school, the educational benefit shall be
20 for tuition reimbursement and books and fees reimbursement.
21 The value of tuition paid per semester hour (or equivalent)
22 shall be limited to the rate of the Department of Defense
23 Tuition Assistance Cap. The value of the books and fees paid
24 per semester shall be limited to ~~\$1,000~~ one thousand dollars
25 (\$1,000) per student.

1 "§31-6-6.

2 "(a) The spouse and children of any veteran who is
3 suffering from 40 to 90 percent service-connected disability
4 brought about from service in the Armed Forces of the United
5 States, or the ~~unmarried widow or widower~~ and children of a
6 deceased veteran who was suffering from 40 percent or more of
7 service-connected disability at the time of death, ~~provided~~
8 ~~such disabilities as are mentioned herein are incurred from~~
9 ~~military service,~~ as established by the State Department of
10 Veterans' Affairs, shall be entitled to the following
11 educational advantages and opportunities:

12 "(1) The spouse or ~~unmarried widow or widower,~~ as
13 the case may be, shall be entitled to up to 27 months of
14 schooling, or the equivalent of 27 months if enrolled
15 part-time, in any Alabama state-supported institution of
16 higher learning, college, or university, or to a prescribed
17 course in any Alabama state-supported community or technical
18 college qualifying school, pursuant to the tuition
19 reimbursement guidelines as provided in subsection (d). One
20 change of program will be allowed without counseling. ~~It is~~
21 ~~provided, however, that all~~ All training received at ~~state~~
22 ~~institutions of higher learning or state-supported community~~
23 ~~or technical college qualifying schools~~ under this subdivision
24 must be completed within a period of six years after ~~the~~

1 ~~beginning date of such two-year course or such prescribed~~
2 ~~course~~ its initiation.

3 "(2) Each child of ~~such a~~ disabled veteran shall be
4 entitled to five standard academic years, or the equivalent of
5 45 months if enrolled part-time, in any ~~Alabama~~
6 ~~state-supported institution of higher learning, college, or~~
7 ~~university, or to a prescribed course at an Alabama~~
8 ~~state-supported community or technical college. If the course~~
9 ~~of training at the community or technical college does not~~
10 ~~require the full time to which such child is entitled~~
11 ~~hereunder, then the remaining entitlement may be taken in a~~
12 ~~state-supported college or university only,~~ qualifying school
13 pursuant to the tuition reimbursement guidelines as provided
14 in subsection (d). One change of program will be allowed
15 without counseling. Training under this subdivision must be
16 initiated prior to the child's twenty-sixth birthday, and must
17 be completed within eight years after its initiation, except
18 for delays caused by military service during the training
19 period, and in no case may training be received under this
20 section beyond the thirty-fourth birthday of ~~such~~ the child.

21 "(b) For the purpose of the minimum disability
22 requirement provided for in subsection (a), the dependent of
23 any veteran whose disability rating as of July 31, 2017, is at
24 least 20 percent but less than 40 percent shall qualify for
25 the benefits of this chapter, provided that the dependent

1 shall file application for ~~such~~ benefits before July 31, 2023,
2 and the dependent is reasonably expected to be eligible to
3 attend ~~an Alabama institution of higher learning, college or~~
4 ~~university~~ a qualifying school in the next academic year.

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

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

23 "~~(e) The benefits provided under this section shall~~
24 ~~be available in addition to federal government benefits. Any~~
25 ~~child, spouse, or unmarried widow who was denied full~~

1 ~~entitlement, 27 or 45 months, whichever the case may be, shall~~
2 ~~have the remainder of their entitlement reinstated under this~~
3 ~~chapter.~~

4 "§31-6-9.

5 "(a) For those dependents who first file for
6 benefits under this chapter prior to July 31, 2017, the
7 benefits provided under this chapter shall be in addition to
8 any other state or federal benefits to which that dependent
9 may be entitled.

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

13 "(1) To the extent permitted by law, prior to
14 applying any benefits provided for under this chapter,
15 institutional certifying officials and financial aid officials
16 shall first apply other federal, state, institutional, and
17 third party scholarships and grants awarded to the dependent
18 for that academic period for payment of required educational
19 expenses during an academic period.

20 "(2) A completed Free Application for Federal
21 Student Aid (FAFSA), or the equivalent, must be submitted to
22 the United States Department of Education for each year in
23 which the dependent receives benefits under this chapter. The
24 dependent shall have applied for all federal student financial
25 aid grants, including, but not limited to, Pell Grants,

1 Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, and Education and
2 Training Vouchers, identified as being available for the
3 student's application by Federal Student Aid, an office of the
4 United States Department of Education, or its successor
5 agency.

6 "(3) All students receiving educational benefits
7 under this chapter and the ~~educational institutions~~ qualifying
8 schools they attend must comply with the standards of
9 Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as required for Title IV
10 benefits under the Higher Education Act and as defined by that
11 ~~education institution~~ qualifying school. Those students who
12 would no longer be eligible to receive Title IV benefits due
13 to a failure to meet SAP standards shall no longer be eligible
14 to receive benefits under this chapter. ~~Education institutions~~
15 Each qualifying school shall notify the ~~Alabama State~~
16 Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs of any student who
17 currently holds a certificate of eligibility for benefits
18 under this chapter who is no longer eligible to receive
19 benefits due to a failure to meet SAP standards and the
20 effective date of that change in eligibility.

21 "(4) The dependent shall ensure that all qualifying
22 schools ~~they attend~~ he or she attends under this program are
23 authorized to release such personally identifiable information
24 to the ~~Alabama State~~ State Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs
25 as is required for the determination of that dependent's

1 continued eligibility and as required for the completion of
2 all reports required by law.

3 "(c) Any dependent who receives benefits under this
4 chapter, and whose benefit period is interrupted due to
5 accident, injury, or illness, shall have the benefit time
6 period which is lost due to such accident, illness, or injury
7 restored to him or her.

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

22 "§31-6-11.

23 "~~(a) Before an application of any veteran for~~
24 ~~benefits under this chapter can be approved, such veteran~~

1 shall submit proof, satisfactory to the State Department of
2 Veterans' Affairs, of all of the following:

3 "~~(1) Identification.~~

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

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

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

17 "(1) Establishing the identification of ~~such wife~~
18 the spouse, widow, or child as the wife spouse, widow, or
19 child of the veteran or serviceman, as the case may be.

20 "(2) Of the veteran or serviceman having been a
21 permanent resident of the State of Alabama for at least one
22 year immediately prior, to his or her entrance into service,
23 or if the applicant is the wife spouse, widow, or child of a
24 totally and permanently disabled veteran, then proof either of
25 the veteran's having been a permanent resident of the State of

1 Alabama for at least one year prior to his or her entrance
2 into service or proof that the veteran has been a bona fide
3 resident of this state for at least five years immediately
4 prior to the filing of the application for benefits under this
5 chapter or immediately prior to his or her death if the
6 veteran is deceased.

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

1 available, and the department shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules and
2 procedures to effect the provisions of this section as needed.

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

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

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

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

21 ~~"(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this~~
22 ~~chapter to the contrary, any person denied educational~~
23 ~~benefits provided by this chapter based solely upon the~~
24 ~~service requirements provided for in subsection (c) shall be~~
25 ~~eligible to receive the benefits the person would otherwise~~

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

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

25 "§31-6-12.

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

18 "§31-6-13.

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

1 their rights and benefits under the provisions of this
2 chapter.

3 "§31-6-14.

4 The county superintendent of education and the city
5 superintendent of schools in each respective county and city
6 ~~must~~ shall inform the teachers of their county and city of the
7 provisions and benefits of this chapter, who in turn shall
8 inform the children of veterans as to their rights and
9 benefits under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter.

10 "§31-6-15.

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

1 students receiving such benefits or waived by the institution
2 or school.

3 "(b) The Department of Examiners of Public Accounts
4 may audit the records of any two-year or four-year institution
5 of higher education which receives any reimbursement as a
6 result of this chapter to the same extent, degree, and scope
7 as audits performed on other public educational institutions,
8 and the institution shall submit to the Legislature and the
9 State Department of Veterans' Affairs each year, before any
10 subsequent reimbursement may be applied for or considered, a
11 full accounting of any receipts, disbursements, assets,
12 liabilities, and other resources as of the date of the close
13 of the immediately preceding academic year.

14 "§31-6-15.1.

15 "The State Department of ~~Veterans~~ Veterans' Affairs
16 shall report to the Legislature, l by January 1st of each year,
17 the number of applicants approved in the previous fiscal year
18 and those approved as of the reporting date for the current
19 fiscal year, the number of students by years of remaining
20 eligibility, and the costs of the previous fiscal year's
21 expenditures to the program by each category of ~~public~~
22 ~~institution of higher learning~~ qualifying school to include
23 the number of students who attended each of those ~~institutions~~
24 schools.

25 "§31-6-16.

1 "Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as
2 lowering the standards or requirements, or as to making any
3 exceptions thereto for entrance into any of the ~~state~~
4 qualifying schools ~~or institutions~~ affected by this chapter.
5 All applicants, in order to obtain the educational benefits of
6 this chapter, must first meet all scholastic and other
7 requirements for entrance into any of the qualifying schools
8 coming within the purview of this chapter."

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

11 Section 3. This act shall become effective on June
12 1, 2022, following its passage and approval by the Governor,
13 or its otherwise becoming law.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB119

Senate 15-FEB-22

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 24-FEB-22

By: Senator Barfoot