

# Senate Study Bill 1041

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS AFFAIRS BILL  
BY CHAIRPERSON BEALL)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating an undergraduate educational assistance grant  
2 program for veterans.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 1279SC 83  
5 kh/nh/5

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261.26 VETERANS EDUCATIONAL  
1 2 ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.  
1 3 1. DEFINITIONS. As used in this section, unless the  
1 4 context otherwise requires:  
1 5 a. "Eligible institution" means a community college  
1 6 established under chapter 260C, an accredited private  
1 7 institution, or an institution of higher learning governed by  
1 8 the state board of regents.  
1 9 b. "Qualified student" means a veteran who meets the  
1 10 requirements set forth in subsection 2.  
1 11 c. "Veteran" means a resident of this state who meets all  
1 12 of the following conditions:  
1 13 (1) Was a resident of this state at the time of entry into  
1 14 the United States armed forces, reserve forces of the United  
1 15 States, or the Iowa or other state national guard; and is  
1 16 currently a resident of this state.  
1 17 (2) Served in active federal service after September 11,  
1 18 2001.  
1 19 (3) Received hazardous duty pay.  
1 20 (4) Was discharged under honorable conditions.  
1 21 (5) Has exhausted any entitlement to educational  
1 22 assistance under the federal Montgomery G.I. bill.  
1 23 2. PROGRAM == ELIGIBILITY. A veterans educational  
1 24 assistance grant program is established to be administered by  
1 25 the commission. The awarding of grants under the program is  
1 26 subject to appropriations made by the general assembly. A  
1 27 veteran who meets all of the following requirements is  
1 28 eligible for a grant under the program:  
1 29 a. Applies in a timely manner for admission to an eligible  
1 30 institution and is accepted for admission.  
1 31 b. Applies in a timely manner for any federal or state  
1 32 student financial assistance available to the veteran to  
1 33 attend an eligible institution.  
1 34 c. Files a new application and submits any information  
1 35 required by the commission annually on the basis of which the  
2 1 applicant's eligibility for a renewed grant will be evaluated  
2 2 and determined.  
2 3 d. Maintains satisfactory academic progress during each  
2 4 term for which a grant is awarded.  
2 5 e. Is employed in this state for wages by an employer.  
2 6 3. EXTENT OF GRANT.  
2 7 a. A qualified student at an eligible institution,  
2 8 attending full-time or part-time, may receive grants under  
2 9 this section for not more than the equivalent of one hundred  
2 10 twenty-eight semester credit hours of undergraduate study or  
2 11 thirty-six semester credit hours of postgraduate study, or the  
2 12 trimester or quarter equivalent, less the amount of any moneys  
2 13 paid under 10 U.S.C. } 2107(c) or 38 U.S.C. } 3104(a)(7)(A),  
2 14 if applicable, for a student who is a veteran. However, a  
2 15 veteran who attains an undergraduate degree utilizing funds  
2 16 awarded pursuant to this section for more than sixty-four  
2 17 semester credit hours of undergraduate study is ineligible for  
2 18 a grant for postgraduate study under this section.

2 19 b. Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not  
2 20 exceed the student's financial need, as determined by the  
2 21 commission, the average resident tuition rate and mandatory  
2 22 fees established for institutions of higher learning governed  
2 23 by the state board of regents, or the resident tuition and  
2 24 mandatory fees charged for the program of enrollment by the  
2 25 eligible institution at which the student is enrolled,  
2 26 whichever is less.

2 27 4. TIMELY PROCESSING OF INFORMATION. The department of  
2 28 veterans affairs shall work with the commission to ensure that  
2 29 information regarding a veteran's status or entitlement to  
2 30 federal educational assistance, required to establish  
2 31 eligibility for a grant pursuant to this section, is processed  
2 32 on a timely basis.

2 33 5. DISCONTINUANCE OF ATTENDANCE == REMITTANCE. If a  
2 34 student receiving a grant pursuant to this section  
2 35 discontinues attendance before the end of any academic term,  
3 1 the entire amount of any refund due to the student, up to the  
3 2 amount of any payments made by the state, shall be remitted by  
3 3 the eligible institution to the commission. The commission  
3 4 shall deposit refunds paid to the commission in accordance  
3 5 with this subsection into the fund established pursuant to  
3 6 subsection 6.

3 7 6. FUND ESTABLISHED. A veterans educational assistance  
3 8 grant fund is created in the state treasury as a separate fund  
3 9 under the control of the commission. All moneys deposited or  
3 10 paid into the fund are appropriated and made available to the  
3 11 commission to be used for grants for qualified students  
3 12 pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any  
3 13 balance in the fund on June 30 of each fiscal year shall not  
3 14 revert to the general fund of the state, but shall be  
3 15 available for purposes of this section in subsequent fiscal  
3 16 years.

3 17 7. RULES. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to  
3 18 chapter 17A to administer this section.

3 19 EXPLANATION

3 20 This bill establishes a veterans educational assistance  
3 21 grant program to be administered by the college student aid  
3 22 commission to provide educational assistance to veterans who  
3 23 reside, and are employed, in Iowa. The awarding of grants is  
3 24 subject to appropriations made by the general assembly.

3 25 Grants awarded may be used by a qualified veteran to attend  
3 26 a community college, accredited private institution, or  
3 27 regents university. To be eligible for the program, the  
3 28 veteran must be a resident and must have been a resident at  
3 29 the time of entry into the United States armed forces, reserve  
3 30 forces of the United States, or the Iowa or other state  
3 31 national guard; have served in active federal service after  
3 32 September 11, 2001; received hazardous duty pay; been  
3 33 discharged under honorable conditions; and exhausted  
3 34 entitlement to federal educational assistance under the  
3 35 Montgomery G.I. bill.

4 1 A qualified veteran may receive grants for full-time or  
4 2 part-time attendance for not more than 128 semester credit  
4 3 hours of undergraduate study or 36 semester credit hours of  
4 4 postgraduate study, minus assistance from the senior reserve  
4 5 officers' training corps scholarship and federal veterans  
4 6 administration's vocational rehabilitation and education  
4 7 program funds, if applicable. However, a veteran who attained  
4 8 an undergraduate degree using program grant funds for more  
4 9 than 64 semester credit hours of undergraduate study is  
4 10 ineligible for a grant for postgraduate study.

4 11 Grants shall not exceed the student's financial need, the  
4 12 average resident tuition rate and mandatory fees established  
4 13 for regents universities, or the resident tuition and  
4 14 mandatory fees charged for the program of enrollment by the  
4 15 eligible institution at which the student is enrolled,  
4 16 whichever is less.

4 17 The department of veterans affairs is directed to work with  
4 18 the commission to ensure that information regarding a  
4 19 veteran's status or entitlement to federal military  
4 20 educational assistance, which is required to establish  
4 21 eligibility for a grant, is processed on a timely basis.

4 22 If a student receiving a grant discontinues attendance, the  
4 23 entire amount of any refund due to the student, up to the  
4 24 amount of any payments made by the state, must be remitted by  
4 25 the eligible institution to the commission. The commission  
4 26 shall deposit refunds into the veterans educational assistance  
4 27 grant fund, which the bill creates in the state treasury.  
4 28 Moneys in the fund are appropriated and made available to the  
4 29 commission to allow it to issue more grants to qualified

4 30 veterans.  
4 31 LSB 1279SC 83  
4 32 kh/nh/5