

**Senate File 309 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 309  
BY SHIPLEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing the dependent of a disabled veteran tuition  
2 grant program within the college student aid commission and  
3 making appropriations.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.211A** **Dependent of a disabled**  
2 **veteran tuition grant program.**

3 1. *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

4 a. "Commission" means the college student aid commission.

5 b. "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher  
6 learning governed by the state board of regents or a community  
7 college as defined in section 260C.2.

8 c. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who  
9 meets all of the following requirements:

10 (1) Was claimed by a veteran with a disability as a dependent  
11 on the veteran with a disability's internal revenue service tax  
12 filing for the previous tax year

13 (2) Is less than twenty-seven years of age.

14 (3) Completes and submits application forms required by the  
15 commission, including the free application for federal student  
16 aid, by the deadline prescribed by the commission.

17 (4) Enrolls in an eligible institution.

18 (5) Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by  
19 the eligible institution.

20 d. "Full-time" means enrollment in at least twelve semester  
21 hours or the equivalent.

22 e. "Part-time" means enrollment in at least six but less than  
23 twelve semester hours or the equivalent.

24 f. "Veteran with a disability" means a resident of this state  
25 who is a veteran, as defined in section 35.1, with a permanent  
26 service-connected disability rating of one hundred percent, as  
27 certified by the United States department of veterans affairs.

28 2. *Program established.* A dependent of a disabled veteran  
29 tuition grant program is established to be administered by the  
30 commission for purposes of providing tuition grants to eligible  
31 institutions in which eligible students are enrolled to help such  
32 eligible students afford the costs of tuition and mandatory fees  
33 associated with attending the eligible institution.

34 3. *Grants — limitations and requirements.*

35 a. (1) A full-time eligible student may receive a grant

1 under the dependent of a disabled veteran tuition grant program  
2 annually for not more than eight semesters, or the equivalent,  
3 or until the eligible student earns an associate degree or a  
4 bachelor's degree from the eligible institution, whichever occurs  
5 first.

6 (2) A part-time eligible student may receive a grant under  
7 the dependent of a disabled veteran tuition grant program  
8 annually for not more than twelve semesters, or the equivalent,  
9 on a prorated basis, or until the eligible student earns an  
10 associate degree or a bachelor's degree from the eligible  
11 institution, whichever occurs first.

12 b. (1) The amount of a dependent of a disabled veteran  
13 tuition grant for a full-time eligible student shall be the  
14 lesser of ten thousand dollars per year or the actual cost of  
15 tuition and mandatory fees charged by the eligible institution to  
16 the eligible student for the applicable academic year.

17 (2) The amount of a dependent of a disabled veteran tuition  
18 grant for a part-time eligible student shall be equal to the  
19 amount that would be awarded to a full-time eligible student  
20 except that the commission shall prorate the amount based on  
21 the part-time eligible student's semester hour or equivalent  
22 enrollment.

23 c. A dependent of a disabled veteran tuition grant shall  
24 be awarded on an annual basis, requiring reapplication by an  
25 eligible student each year. Payments under the dependent of a  
26 disabled veteran tuition grant program shall be allocated equally  
27 among the semesters, or the equivalent, and paid to the eligible  
28 institution upon certification by the eligible institution that  
29 the student meets the requirements of subsection 1, paragraph  
30 "c".

31 d. If a grant recipient discontinues attendance before the  
32 end of any semester, or the equivalent, after receiving grant  
33 payments, the entire amount of any refund due that recipient, up  
34 to the full amount of grant payments made during that semester,  
35 or the equivalent, shall be paid by the eligible institution to

1 the commission.

2 4. *Commission's duties and responsibilities.* The commission  
3 shall administer the dependent of a disabled veteran tuition  
4 grant program and shall do all of the following:

5 a. Provide application forms for distribution to students by  
6 eligible institutions.

7 b. Adopt rules under chapter 17A for administration of this  
8 section, including but not limited to establishing the duties and  
9 responsibilities of eligible institutions under the dependent of  
10 a disabled veteran tuition grant program; defining residence and  
11 satisfactory academic progress for purposes of the program; and  
12 establishing procedures for grant application, processing, and  
13 approval. The rules shall require the commission to award grants  
14 on a first-come, first-served basis.

15 c. Approve and award grants on an annual basis.

16 5. *Fund created.* A dependent of a disabled veteran tuition  
17 grant program fund is created in the state treasury as a separate  
18 fund under the control of the commission. All moneys deposited  
19 or paid into the fund are appropriated and made available to the  
20 commission to be used for scholarships awarded as provided under  
21 this section. Notwithstanding section 8.33, any balance in the  
22 fund on June 30 of each fiscal year shall not revert to the  
23 general fund of the state, but shall be available for purposes  
24 of this section in subsequent fiscal years.

25 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — DEPENDENT OF A DISABLED  
26 VETERAN TUITION GRANT PROGRAM. There is appropriated from the  
27 general fund of the state to the department of education for the  
28 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the  
29 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used  
30 for the purposes designated:

31 For deposit in the dependent of a disabled veteran tuition  
32 grant program fund created in section 256.211A, if enacted by  
33 this Act:

34 ..... \$ 500,000

35 EXPLANATION

1           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
2           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3       This bill establishes the dependent of a disabled veteran  
4 tuition grant program within the college student aid commission  
5 (commission) for purposes of providing tuition grants to eligible  
6 institutions in which eligible students are enrolled to help such  
7 eligible students afford the costs of tuition and mandatory fees  
8 associated with attending the eligible institution.

9       The bill provides that a full-time eligible student may  
10 receive a grant under the program annually for not more than  
11 eight semesters, or until the eligible student earns an associate  
12 degree or a bachelor's degree from the eligible institution,  
13 whichever occurs first. Additionally, the bill provides that  
14 a part-time eligible student may receive a grant under the  
15 program annually for not more than 12 semesters, on a prorated  
16 basis, or until the eligible student earns an associate degree  
17 or a bachelor's degree from the eligible institution, whichever  
18 occurs first. The bill establishes that a tuition grant under  
19 the program shall be awarded on an annual basis, requiring  
20 reapplication by an eligible student each year. The bill  
21 requires that payments under the program be allocated equally  
22 among the semesters and paid to the eligible institution upon  
23 certification by the eligible institution that the student meets  
24 the applicable requirements. The bill provides that if a grant  
25 recipient discontinues attendance before the end of any semester,  
26 after receiving grant payments, the entire amount of any refund  
27 due that recipient, up to the full amount of grant payments made  
28 during that semester, or the equivalent, shall be paid by the  
29 eligible institution to the commission.

30       The bill requires the commission to provide application forms  
31 for distribution to students by eligible institutions, adopt  
32 rules under Code chapter 17A for administration of the program,  
33 and approve and award grants on an annual basis. The commission  
34 is required to award grants on a first-come, first-served basis.

35       The bill establishes a dependent of a disabled veteran tuition

1 grant program fund in the state treasury as a separate fund under  
2 the control of the commission and appropriates \$500,000 to the  
3 department of education in FY 2025-2026 for deposit in the fund.

4 The bill defines "commission", "eligible institution",  
5 "eligible student", "full-time", "part-time", and "veteran with  
6 a disability".

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