

1 AN ACT concerning scholarships.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 30-14.2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/30-14.2) (from Ch. 122, par. 30-14.2)

7 Sec. 30-14.2. MIA/POW scholarships.

8 (a) Any spouse, natural child, legally adopted child, or  
9 any step-child of an eligible veteran or serviceperson who  
10 possesses all necessary entrance requirements shall, upon  
11 application and proper proof, be awarded a State of Illinois  
12 MIA/POW Scholarship consisting of the equivalent of 4  
13 calendar years of full-time enrollment including summer  
14 terms, to the state supported Illinois institution of higher  
15 learning of his or her choice, subject to the restrictions  
16 listed in this Section below. However, if the spouse or child  
17 of an eligible veteran or serviceperson has received a  
18 similar higher educational benefit from another state prior  
19 to applying for a State of Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship, the  
20 amount of time that the spouse or child received the higher  
21 educational benefit from the other state shall be subtracted  
22 from the 4 calendar years of full-time enrollment that the  
23 State of Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship offers.

24 "Eligible veteran or serviceperson" means any veteran or  
25 serviceperson who has been declared by the U. S. Department  
26 of Defense or the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to be  
27 a prisoner of war, be missing in action, have died as the  
28 result of a service-connected disability or be permanently  
29 disabled from service-connected causes with 100% disability  
30 and-who-at-the-time--of--entering--service--was--an--Illinois  
31 resident--or--was--an--Illinois--resident--within-6-months-of

1 entering-such-service.

2 Full-time enrollment means 12 or more semester hours of  
3 courses per semester, or 12 or more quarter hours of courses  
4 per quarter, or the equivalent thereof per term.  
5 Scholarships utilized by dependents enrolled in less than  
6 full-time study shall be computed in the proportion which the  
7 number of hours so carried bears to full-time enrollment.

8 Scholarships awarded under this Section may be used by a  
9 spouse or child without regard to his or her age. To qualify  
10 for a State of Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship, (i) the eligible  
11 veteran or serviceperson must have been a resident of the  
12 State of Illinois at the time of entering service, within 6  
13 months of entering such service, or at the time of death or  
14 (ii) the veteran or serviceperson or the spouse or child of  
15 the veteran or serviceperson must be a resident of the State  
16 of Illinois at the time of application. The holder of a  
17 Scholarship awarded under this Section shall be subject to  
18 all examinations and academic standards, including the  
19 maintenance of minimum grade levels, that are applicable  
20 generally to other enrolled students at the Illinois  
21 institution of higher learning where the Scholarship is being  
22 used. If a the surviving spouse remarries or if there is a  
23 divorce between the veteran or serviceperson and his or her  
24 spouse while the spouse dependent is pursuing his or her  
25 course of study, the spouse's Scholarship benefits will be  
26 terminated at the end of the term for which he or she is  
27 presently enrolled. Such Dependents shall also be entitled,  
28 upon proper proof and application, to enroll in any extension  
29 course offered by a State supported Illinois institution of  
30 higher learning without payment of tuition and approved fees.  
31 The holder of a State of Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship  
32 authorized under this Section shall not be required to pay  
33 any matriculation or application fees, tuition, activities  
34 fees, graduation fees or other fees, except multipurpose

1 building fees or similar fees for supplies and materials.

2 Any dependent who has been or shall be awarded a State of  
3 Illinois MIA/POW Scholarship shall be reimbursed by the  
4 appropriate institution of higher learning for any fees which  
5 he or she has paid and for which exemption is granted under  
6 this Section if application for reimbursement is made within  
7 2 months following the end of the school term for which the  
8 fees were paid.

9 (b) In lieu of the benefit provided in subsection (a),  
10 any spouse, natural child, legally adopted child, or  
11 step-child of an eligible veteran or serviceperson, which  
12 spouse or child has a physical, mental or developmental  
13 disability, shall be entitled to receive, upon application  
14 and proper proof, a benefit to be used for the purpose of  
15 defraying the cost of the attendance or treatment of such  
16 spouse or child at one or more appropriate therapeutic,  
17 rehabilitative or educational facilities. The application  
18 and proof may be made by the parent or legal guardian of the  
19 spouse or child on his or her behalf.

20 The total benefit provided to any beneficiary under this  
21 subsection shall not exceed the cost equivalent of 4 calendar  
22 years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms, at the  
23 University of Illinois. Whenever practicable in the opinion  
24 of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, payment of benefits  
25 under this subsection shall be made directly to the facility,  
26 the cost of attendance or treatment at which is being  
27 defrayed, as such costs accrue.

28 (c) The benefits of this Section shall be administered  
29 by and paid for out of funds made available to the Illinois  
30 Department of Veterans' Affairs. The amounts that become due  
31 to any state supported Illinois institution of higher  
32 learning shall be payable by the Comptroller to such  
33 institution on vouchers approved by the Illinois Department  
34 of Veterans' Affairs. The amounts that become due under

1 subsection (b) of this Section shall be payable by warrant  
2 upon vouchers issued by the Illinois Department of Veterans'  
3 Affairs and approved by the Comptroller. The Illinois  
4 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall determine the  
5 eligibility of the persons who make application for the  
6 benefits provided for in this Section.

7 (Source: P.A. 89-267, eff. 1-1-96.)