

HCS#2 HB 94 & 185 -- SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SURVIVORS OF VETERANS  
KILLED IN ACTION

SPONSOR: Jackson (Cunningham, 145)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Veterans  
by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute allows the children and the spouse of a soldier who is killed in action after September 11, 2001, or who becomes 80% disabled as the result of an injury sustained in combat action after September 11, 2001, to receive an educational grant for tuition at a public or private college or university in Missouri. The tuition grant cannot exceed that which is charged a resident by the University of Missouri-Columbia. The veteran must have been a Missouri resident at the time of death or the injury in order for his or her survivors to receive this grant. In addition to the full cost of tuition, the grant includes \$2,000 per semester for room and board and the actual cost of books up to \$500 per semester.

Children are eligible to receive the scholarship until age 25. Spouses are eligible until age 45.

No eligible student will receive a grant for more than 100% of tuition when combined with similar funds given to the student.

The provisions of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 to \$265,475 in FY 2006, \$0 to \$272,500 in FY 2007, and \$0 to \$279,875 in FY 2008. Subject to appropriation. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide educational assistance to the children and spouses of Missouri veterans killed or injured in combat after September 11, 2001. This is important because it will give the survivors an opportunity to improve their economic status through education. This is of vital importance for a family who has lost the income earned by an injured or deceased soldier. Children and spouses who already have a baccalaureate degree are not eligible, and any grant awarded will be reduced by the amount of other scholarships and financial aid received by the student so that no one receives more than 100% of the cost of tuition.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Cunningham (145) and Cooper (158); Missouri Veterans Commission; Marine Corps League; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Missouri

Association of Veterans Organizations; American Legion; and Pat  
Rowe Kerr.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst