

HCS HB 1368 -- MISSOURI RETURNING HEROES EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Basye

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Veterans by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill requires any institution of higher education that receives state funds to limit the amount of tuition it charges to combat veterans enrolled in a program leading to a graduate degree to no more than 30% of the cost of tuition and fees. A combat veteran is eligible for the tuition limitation for a 10-year period beginning on the date of the veteran's last discharge from service.

This bill is similar to HB 946 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would allow our servicemen and women who fought for our country to stretch their benefits a little further and to receive a graduate education at a reduced cost.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Basye; Phillip Bacon; and Richard A. Heigert, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say this would put a burden on the state's budget because if only 25% of combat veterans currently enrolled in undergraduate studies went on to pursue a graduate degree, it would cost the state approximately \$2 million.

Testifying on the bill were Council on Public Higher Education and Missouri State University.