

HB 1979 -- Missouri National Guard and Missouri Reservists Family Education Grant

Sponsor: Smith (14)

This bill establishes the Missouri National Guard and Missouri Reservists Family Education Grant which allows children of a Missouri National Guard member or a Missouri reservist with the United States Reserves to receive a grant for tuition at an in-state public college or university if the parent is deployed in support of the global war on terrorism. The child must meet specific financial guidelines established by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education to be eligible for the grant.

The spouse of a Missouri National Guard member or a Missouri reservist with the United States Reserves is also eligible to receive a grant if the member or reservist is injured while deployed in support of the global war on terrorism. The extent of the injury and its effect on the soldier's ability to return to his or her profession after discharge from the military must meet specific guidelines established by the board.

The grants will include the full cost of tuition at a Missouri public postsecondary institution, an allowance for room and board up to \$2,000 per semester, and the actual cost of books up to \$500 per semester. Grants do not cover graduate study, and no grant will be awarded for more than 100% of the cost of tuition and books when combined with similar funds given to the grantee. In order to be eligible to receive a grant, the child or spouse must be certified by a Missouri National Guard officer or a designee of the Missouri Veterans Commission. Children will be eligible to apply for this grant until they reach 25 years of age.

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