

HCS HB 114 -- BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

SPONSOR: McCaherty

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 17 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding benefits for military members and their families. The substitute:

- (1) Creates the Show Me Heroes Education Fund within the state treasury. This fund will be used to provide and manage tuition assistance to qualified members of the Missouri National Guard;
- (2) Authorizes the issuance of a military medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation to any veteran who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam War as a member of the Missouri National Guard regardless of whether the veteran is or ever was a legal Missouri resident;
- (3) Allows an exemption from the proof of residency or domicile requirement to register a child for school whose parent or guardian is serving on specified active duty military orders;
- (4) Requires, by January 1, 2014, the Department of Higher Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to adopt a policy requiring every university, college, and vocational and technical school to award credits to a student who is a veteran for courses that are part of his or her military training or service and that meet the standards of the American Council of Education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credit if the award is based upon the institution's admission standards and its role, scope, and mission. Beginning for the 2014-2015 academic year and every year thereafter, the department and every governing body of a postsecondary education institution must adopt the necessary rules and procedures to implement these provisions;
- (5) Requires every health-related professional licensing board to establish procedures to ensure that members of the armed forces with health-related professional licenses or certificates that are in good standing when entering active duty will remain in good standing while serving. Renewal of a member's license or certificate while the member is on active duty must occur without the payment of dues or if specified conditions are met, fulfillment of the continuing education requirements. Service as a member of the armed forces, if satisfactory to the licensing board, may be applied toward the qualifications to receive a license or certificate from a professional licensing board; and

(6) Authorizes the Director of the Department of Revenue to accept a \$1 donation to the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City from applicants for motor vehicle registration and renewal. Moneys collected will be deposited in the Veterans' Capital Improvement Trust Fund for the sole purpose of restoring, renovating and maintaining the museum.

The substitute contains an emergency clause for the provisions regarding the Show Me Heroes Education Fund.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill allows a veteran to apply the education and training he or she received in the military for college credits and prevents the lapsing of his or her professional licenses while deployed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department; Rich Heigert, Missouri Association Veterans Organizations; and Missouri National Guard.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.