

HCS HB 168 -- PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION RESIDENCY STATUS

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute allows a person who is separating from any branch of the United States military with an honorable discharge or a general discharge to have resident status for admission and in-state or in-district tuition at any approved public higher education institution in the state if the person can demonstrate presence within the state and, if attending community college, within the taxing district of the community college he or she attends. If any individual is eligible to receive federal or state student financial assistance, the full amount of the aid must be reported to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education by the institution and the individual. No individual can receive more than the actual cost of attendance when the lower tuition is combined with other aid.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that as veterans leave the active service, they currently have to wait for a year to achieve in-state residency status as it applies to higher education, but they must decide before they separate from the service on how they will use their veteran education benefits. The bill allows them to start on their education as soon as they leave active service.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department; Pat Rowe-Kerr; University of Central Missouri; Johnson County Economic Development Corporation; and University of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.