

HCS SCS SB 117 -- MILITARY AFFAIRS

SPONSOR: Kraus

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute allows the Honor and Remember flag to be displayed upon the grounds and at all state buildings and within state parks along with the United State flag and the POW/MIA flag as an official recognition and in honor of fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

A person who is separating from any branch of the United States military with an honorable discharge or a general discharge must 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 and declare residency within the state and, if attending community college, within the taxing district of the community college he or she attends.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that a veteran who leaves the active service has to wait for a year to achieve in-state residency status as it applies to higher education admission and tuition, but he or she must decide before he or she separates from the service on how he or she will use his or her veteran education benefits. The bill allows a veteran to start on his or her education as soon as he or she leaves active service.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kraus; Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department; University of Central Missouri; and Missouri Southern State University.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.