

Senate Bill 415

By: Senators Douglas of the 17th, Seabaugh of the 28th, Grant of the 25th, Schaefer of the 50th, Williams of the 19th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Code Section 20-3-485 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions relative to the Georgia HERO (Helping Educate Reservists and their Offspring)
3 Scholarship, so as to provide that surviving spouses shall be eligible students; to provide that
4 a person evacuated from a combat zone due to severe injuries shall be deemed to have
5 completed a qualifying term of service; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 20-3-485 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
10 relative to the Georgia HERO (Helping Educate Reservists and their Offspring) Scholarship,
11 is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (5) and inserting in their places, respectively, the
12 following:

13 "(2) 'Eligible student' means a person who:

14 (A)(i) Is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an approved school;

15 (ii) Meets residency requirements to be classified as a legal resident of Georgia as
16 established pursuant to regulations of the authority and who remains a citizen of the
17 state while receiving funds under this subpart; and

18 (iii) Is a member of the Georgia National Guard as such term is defined in Code
19 Section 38-2-3 or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United
20 States, which member has completed at least one qualifying term of service; ~~or~~

21 (B) Is a child:

22 (i) Whose parent was a member of the Georgia National Guard as such term is
23 defined in Code Section 38-2-3 or a member of a reserve component of the armed
24 forces of the United States, including a deceased member, which member completed
25 at least one qualifying term of service;

1 (ii) Who was born prior to such qualifying term of service or within nine months of
2 the beginning of such qualifying term of service; and

3 (iii) Is 25 years of age or younger who is enrolled as a full-time or part-time student
4 in an approved school; or

5 (C) Is a surviving spouse of a deceased member of the Georgia National Guard as such
6 term is defined in Code Section 38-2-3 or of a deceased member of a reserve
7 component of the armed forces of the United States, which member completed at least
8 one qualifying term of service."

9 "(5) 'Qualifying term of service' means deployment overseas for active service on or after
10 the effective date of this subpart to a location or locations outside of the United States and
11 its territories designated by the United States Department of Defense as a combat zone
12 for a consecutive period of at least 181 days or, in the case of an individual who is killed
13 or receives a 100 percent disability as a result of injuries received in such combat zone,
14 any period of time on active service in such combat zone; provided, however, that any
15 person who fails to serve the full 181 consecutive days because he or she was evacuated
16 from the combat zone due to severe injuries shall be deemed to have completed a
17 qualifying term of service."

18 SECTION 2.

19 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.