

House Bill 769

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Williams of the 168th, Jackson of the 64th, Schofield of the 60th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterans education, so as to provide for graduate education and housing assistance for certain disabled veterans; to provide for definitions; to provide for benefits and eligibility; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterans education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:
"38-4-38.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) 'Disabled veteran' means a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who meets the requirements for benefits under Chapter 31 of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations and who enlisted in the armed forces in Georgia and returned to Georgia after being honorably discharged from any branch of the armed forces.

(2) 'Housing allowance' means a monthly stipend equal to the monthly stipend described in subparagraph (c)(1)(B) of Section 3313 of Title 38 of the United States Code.

(3) 'Tuition assistance' means an amount equal to the amount described in subparagraph (c)(1)(A) of Section 3313 of Title 38 of the United States Code.

(b) The Department of Veterans Service shall establish an educational assistance program to provide housing and tuition assistance to disabled veterans attending graduate school in the State of Georgia.

(c) Upon appropriation by the General Assembly, the Department of Veterans Service shall provide:

(1) Tuition assistance and a housing allowance to qualified disabled veterans attending any graduate school at any public or private college or university in the State of Georgia; and

(2) A housing allowance to qualified disabled veterans participating in a graduate internship or fellowship program in the State of Georgia that earns credits toward a graduate degree.

(d) In order to receive the tuition assistance or housing allowance provided for in this Code section, a disabled veteran shall apply to the Department of Veterans Service in a manner prescribed by the department.

(e) A disabled veteran who is eligible for educational assistance pursuant to Part III of Title 38 of the United States Code shall not be eligible for benefits under this Code section until and unless such disabled veteran's eligibility for federal education assistance has expired.

(f) The Department of Veterans Service shall, not later than January 1, 2022, develop rules and regulations for the implementation of this Code section. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the application criteria, application process, data collection, accountability for program expenditures, and metrics for evaluation of assistance provided."

SECTION 2.

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