

**SB178 ENROLLED**



1 XS8QZE-2  
2 By Senator Chambliss  
3 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
4 First Read: 05-Apr-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



## SB178 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 veterans or those who were a prisoner of war  
4 while serving as a member of the United States Armed  
5 Forces.

6 This bill would expand benefits to include the  
7 spouses of those who were killed while on state active  
8 duty status or whose death results proximately and  
9 within three years of an injury sustained while on  
10 state active duty status.

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12 Relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs; to  
13 amend Section 31-6-5, as last amended by Act 2022-91, 2022  
14 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975; to expand eligibility  
15 for educational benefits to spouses of those who were killed  
16 while on active state duty status or whose death results  
17 proximately and within three years of an injury sustained  
18 while on state active duty status.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. Section 31-6-5, as last amended by Act  
21 2022-91, 2022 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 "§31-6-5

24 (a) Any spouse or widow whose spouse, during their  
25 marriage:

26 (1) Was killed or died in the line of duty or is  
27 listed as missing in action or is or was a prisoner of war  
28 while serving as a member of the armed forces;



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29 (2) Died from a disability incurred from military  
30 service; ~~or~~

31 (3) Was killed or died while on state active duty  
32 status as defined in Section 31-12-1, or whose death results  
33 proximately and within three years from an injury sustained  
34 while on state active duty status; or

35 ~~(3)~~ (4) Is 100 percent permanently and totally  
36 disabled, whose permanent and total disabilities were  
37 service-connected; shall be entitled to training in any  
38 qualifying school for a period of five standard academic  
39 years, not to exceed 45 months, or to training for the  
40 equivalent of 45 months if enrolled part-time, pursuant to the  
41 tuition reimbursement guidelines as provided in subsection  
42 (c). One change of program will be allowed without counseling.  
43 All training received under this section must be completed  
44 within eight years after its initiation. This section shall  
45 not apply to the spouse of any deceased serviceman or veteran  
46 who has remarried prior to applying for and obtaining  
47 educational benefits under this section, and should any spouse  
48 of the deceased serviceman or veteran remarry during the time  
49 he or she is in attendance upon any of the qualifying schools  
50 mentioned in this section, then he or she shall pay tuition  
51 and fees for the course of study or attendance upon the  
52 qualifying school from the time of the remarriage.

53 (b) The educational benefits provided by this section  
54 to spouses and widows making application for benefits for the  
55 first time beginning with the fall term of the 2014-2015  
56 academic year, and thereafter, shall be limited to



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57 undergraduate courses of study only, and the value of tuition  
58 paid shall be limited to the in-state tuition rate of the  
59 qualifying school attended.

60 (c) For those first filing for benefits under this  
61 chapter on or after July 31, 2017, and for those attending a  
62 qualifying private school, the educational benefit shall be  
63 for tuition reimbursement and books and fees reimbursement.  
64 The value of tuition paid per semester hour (or equivalent)  
65 shall be limited to the rate of the Department of Defense  
66 Tuition Assistance Cap. The value of the books and fees paid  
67 per semester shall be limited to one thousand dollars (\$1,000)  
68 per student."

69 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first  
70 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
71 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB178

Senate 27-Apr-23

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives

Passed: 25-May-23

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By: Senator Chambliss