

1 SB287  
2 127955-2  
3 By Senator Marsh  
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs  
5 First Read: 29-MAR-11

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the wife, widow, or  
9 child of a veteran is entitled to scholarship  
10 benefits for postsecondary education based on  
11 certain conditions including service of the veteran  
12 during "wartime or extra hazardous conditions." The  
13 Department of Veterans' Affairs has in the past  
14 provided benefits to dependents of any veteran  
15 based on any service, but as of January 2011 began  
16 providing benefits only to dependents of veterans  
17 who served during certain designated conflict  
18 periods.

19 This bill would extend scholarship benefits  
20 to dependents of any veteran based on any service  
21 of the veteran for any educational program  
22 commenced prior to July 1, 2012.

23  
24 A BILL  
25 TO BE ENTITLED  
26 AN ACT  
27

1           To amend Section 31-6-11 of the Code of Alabama  
2 1975, relating to veteran benefits, to further provide for  
3 educational scholarship benefits for postsecondary education  
4 to dependents of any veteran based on any service of the  
5 veteran for any educational program commenced by a certain  
6 date.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8           Section 1. Section 31-6-11 of the Code of Alabama  
9 1975, is amended to read as follows:

10           "§31-6-11.

11           "(a) Before an application of any veteran for  
12 benefits under this chapter can be approved, such veteran  
13 shall submit proof, satisfactory to the State Department of  
14 Veterans' Affairs, of all of the following:

15           "(1) Identification~~;~~.

16           "(2) Having been a permanent resident of the State  
17 of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to his or  
18 her entrance into service~~;~~ and.

19           "(3) An honorable discharge or other proof of  
20 honorable termination of at least 24 months of service in the  
21 armed forces, or if such veteran was discharged or released by  
22 reason of service-connected disability then proof of honorable  
23 termination of less than 24 months of service is acceptable.

24           "(b) Before the application of a wife, widow~~,~~ or  
25 child of a disabled veteran or a deceased veteran or  
26 serviceman for educational benefits under this chapter is

1 approved, proof, satisfactory to the State Department of  
2 Veterans' Affairs, must be submitted of all of the following:

3 "(1) Establishing the identification of such wife,  
4 widow, or child as the wife, widow, or child of the veteran or  
5 serviceman, as the case may be; and,

6 "(2) Of ~~such~~ the veteran or serviceman having been a  
7 permanent resident of the State of Alabama for at least one  
8 year immediately prior to his or her entrance into service, or  
9 if the applicant is the wife, widow, or child of a totally and  
10 permanently disabled veteran, then proof either of the  
11 veteran's having been a permanent resident of the State of  
12 Alabama for at least one year prior to his or her entrance  
13 into service or proof that ~~such~~ the veteran has been a bona  
14 fide resident of this state for at least five years  
15 immediately prior to the filing of the application for  
16 benefits under this chapter or immediately prior to his or her  
17 death if the veteran is deceased; ~~and,~~ and,

18 "(3) An honorable discharge or other proof of  
19 honorable termination of service of the veteran or serviceman  
20 in the armed forces for a period of at least 90 days between  
21 the dates mentioned in this chapter, or service of less than  
22 90 days if the veteran or serviceman was discharged or  
23 released by reason of service-connected disability.

24 "(c) The service upon which any benefits are awarded  
25 under this chapter shall have been rendered during wartime or  
26 under extrahazardous conditions; and this condition of  
27 eligibility shall be established by the State Department of

1 Veterans' Affairs. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the wife,  
2 widow, or child of a veteran shall be eligible for scholarship  
3 benefits pursuant to this section for any educational program  
4 commenced prior to July 1, 2012, until the completion of the  
5 educational program based on any service of the veteran,  
6 provided the wife, widow, or child otherwise meets the  
7 requirements of subsection (b)."

8 Section 2. This act shall become effective  
9 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
10 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.