

SENATE BILL No. 295

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 10-17-12.

Synopsis: Military family relief fund. Amends the definition of "qualified service member" for purposes of the military family relief fund to mean an individual who is an Indiana resident and either: (1) a member of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard serving on or has served on active duty during a time of national conflict or war; or (2) served on active duty during a time of national conflict or war in the armed forces of the United States or the national guard and received an honorable discharge. Amends the purpose of the military family relief fund to provide only for short term financial assistance to families of qualified service members for hardships that result from the qualified service members' military service.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

Banks, Hershman

January 7, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs & The Military.



Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 295

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning military and veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 10-17-12-0.7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2013,
2 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 0.7. ~~(a)~~ The purpose of the fund established in
4 section 8 of this chapter is to provide
5 (1) short term financial assistance to families of qualified service
6 members for hardships that result from the qualified service
7 members' active duty **military** service. and
8 (2) funding for:
9 (A) grants for reimbursement for training; and
10 (B) the purchase of computer equipment and software;
11 for county and city veterans' service officers.
12 (b) Funding for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2) must be
13 provided from the amount transferred to the fund under section 13 of
14 this chapter.
15 SECTION 2. IC 10-17-12-1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
16 2016]. Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "active duty" means full-time
17 service in the:



1 (1) armed forces; or
 2 (2) National Guard;
 3 for a period that exceeds thirty (30) consecutive days:

4 SECTION 3. IC 10-17-12-7.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.50-2009,
 5 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 6 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 7.5. As used in this chapter, "qualified service
 7 member" means an individual who is **an Indiana resident and who:**

8 (1) an Indiana resident;

9 (2) a member of:

10 (A) the armed forces; or

11 (B) the National Guard; and

12 (3) serving on active duty:

13 (A) after September 11, 2001; and

14 (B) during a time of national conflict or war:

15 (1) is:

16 (A) a member of the armed forces of the United States or
 17 the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4); and

18 (B) serving on or has served on active duty during a time
 19 of national conflict or war; or

20 (2) has:

21 (A) served on active duty during a time of national conflict
 22 or war in:

23 (i) the armed forces of the United States; or

24 (ii) the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4); and

25 (B) received an honorable discharge.

26 SECTION 4. IC 10-17-12-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.7-2014,
 27 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 28 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 8. (a) The military family relief fund is established
 29 to provide assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services,
 30 basic transportation, child care, education, employment or workforce,
 31 and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult
 32 to afford for qualified service members or dependents of qualified
 33 service members. ~~The fund may also be used to provide for grants for~~
 34 ~~reimbursement for training and for computer equipment and software~~
 35 ~~for county and city veterans' service officers.~~

36 (b) Except as provided in section 9 of this chapter, the commission
 37 shall expend the money in the fund exclusively to provide grants for
 38 assistance as described in subsection (a).

39 (c) The commission shall give priority to applications for grants for
 40 assistance from the fund to qualified service members or dependents
 41 of qualified service members who have never received a grant under
 42 this chapter.



1 (d) Subject to the approval of the budget agency, the commission
 2 shall establish the maximum total dollar amount of grants that may be
 3 expended in a state fiscal year. Once the maximum total dollar amount
 4 of grants that may be expended in a state fiscal year is reached, no
 5 additional grants may be authorized until the start of the following state
 6 fiscal year.

7 (e) The director shall each year provide a report to the budget
 8 committee concerning the grant program under this chapter.

9 (f) A qualified service member or the qualified service member's
 10 dependent may be eligible to receive assistance from the fund.

11 (g) The commission shall administer the fund.

12 SECTION 5. IC 10-17-12-13 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY
 13 1, 2016]. Sec. 13: (a) The commission shall transfer one hundred eighty
 14 thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the veterans' affairs trust fund
 15 established by IC 10-17-13-3 to the fund:

16 (b) There is appropriated to the commission one hundred eighty
 17 thousand dollars (\$180,000) from the fund for:

18 (1) grants for training county and city veterans' service officers
 19 under IC 10-17-1-10; and

20 (2) the purchase of computer equipment and software to be used
 21 by the city and county veterans' service officers:

22 (c) A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a grant for
 23 reimbursement for training expenses associated with service officer
 24 training, including travel and incidental expenses of eligible county and
 25 city veterans' service officers seeking initial or renewal service officer
 26 accreditation. A county or city veterans' service officer may receive a
 27 grant under this subsection in an amount not to exceed five hundred
 28 dollars (\$500) for reimbursement. The commission shall set standards
 29 for the reimbursement grants. A county or city veterans' service officer
 30 may apply to the commission for a reimbursement grant, and the
 31 commission may make a grant based on the commission's review of an
 32 application:

33 (d) A county or city that employs a veterans' service officer may
 34 receive a grant, in an amount not to exceed one thousand two hundred
 35 dollars (\$1,200), for reimbursement for computer equipment and
 36 software to enable the veterans' service officer to access national data
 37 bases for benefits for veterans. The commission shall set standards for
 38 the review of grants for the purchase of computer equipment and
 39 software under this subsection. A county or city may apply to the
 40 commission for a grant for reimbursement for the purchase of computer
 41 equipment and software, and the commission may make a grant based
 42 on the commission's review of an application:

