

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2695

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 22, 2021

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing scholarships for surviving dependent family members of New York state military personnel who have died while performing official military duties

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 668-e of the education law, as added by chapter 106  
2 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 668-e. Military enhanced recognition, incentive and tribute  
4 ("MERIT") scholarships. 1. Eligible persons. a. Notwithstanding subdi-  
5 visions three and five of section six hundred sixty-one of this [~~title~~  
6 part], children, spouses and financial dependents of a member of the  
7 armed forces of the United States or state organized militia who at any  
8 time on or after the second day of August, nineteen hundred ninety,  
9 while in service in the armed forces of the United States, as defined by  
10 subdivision eight of section one of the military law or in a force of  
11 the state organized militia, as defined in subdivision nine of section  
12 one of the military law: (i) while a legal resident of New York state,  
13 died, became severely and permanently disabled or was classified as  
14 missing in action [~~in a combat theater or combat zone of operations as~~  
15 ~~part of military operations, or died as a result of injury or illness~~  
16 ~~suffered or incurred during such military service~~] in the performance of  
17 his or her official duties; or (ii) while a legal resident of New York  
18 state, died or became severely and permanently disabled as a result of  
19 injury or illness suffered or incurred during military training oper-  
20 ations in preparation for duty in a combat theater or combat zone of  
21 operations.

22 b. A member of the armed forces of the United States who: (i) became  
23 severely and permanently disabled as a result of service in the armed

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 forces of the United States, as defined by subdivision eight of section  
2 one of the military law, [~~in a combat theater or combat zone of oper-~~  
3 ~~ations~~] in the performance of his or her official duties as part of  
4 military operations at any time on or after the second day of August,  
5 nineteen hundred ninety; and (ii) was a legal resident of New York state  
6 at the time of military service.

7 c. A member of the armed forces of the United States who: (i) became  
8 severely and permanently disabled as a result of injury or illness  
9 suffered or incurred during military training operations [~~in preparation~~  
10 ~~for duty in a combat theater or combat zone of operations~~] in the  
11 performance of his or her official duties; and (ii) was a legal resident  
12 of New York state at the time of military service.

13 d. A member of the state organized militia who: (i) became severely  
14 and permanently disabled as a result of injury or illness suffered or  
15 incurred during active military service, as defined in subdivision six  
16 of section one of the military law related to duty [~~in a combat theater~~  
17 ~~or combat zone of operations~~] in the performance of his or her official  
18 duties; and (ii) was a legal resident of New York state at the time of  
19 active military service.

20 2. Amount. The president shall grant annual scholarships in amounts  
21 determined in accordance with subdivisions two and three of section six  
22 hundred sixty-eight-d of this part.

23 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.