STATE OF NEW YORK

747

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to veterans tuition awards program eligibility, and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the education law relating to expanding eligibility under the veterans tuition awards program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8596-A and A. 9205-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

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

Section 1. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph d of subdivision 1 of section 669-a of the education law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the education law relating to expanding eligibility under the veterans tuition awards program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8596-A and A. 9205-A, is amended to read as follows:

(ii) served in the armed forces of the United States **(1) on active duty for at least four years, or (2) in hostilities that occurred after February twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred sixty-one, as evidenced by their receipt of an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, or Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal**, and

§ 2. Paragraph a of subdivision 2 of section 669-a of the education law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the education law relating to expanding eligibility under the veterans tuition awards program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8596-A and A. 9205-A, is amended to read as follows:

a. Tuition awards are available for all **Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and** other eligible veterans, as defined in subdivision one of this section, who are enrolled, pursuant to paragraph a of subdivision four of section six hundred sixty-one of this part, in approved undergraduate or graduate programs at degree granting institutions or enrolled in

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

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approved vocational training programs and who apply for a tuition assistance program award, for up to the equivalent of eight full-time semesters, pursuant to section six hundred sixty-seven of this subpart.

§ 3. Subdivision 4 of section 669-a of the education law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the education law relating to expanding eligibility under the veterans tuition awards program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8596-A and A. 9205-A, is amended to read as follows:

4. Every recipient shall receive an award equal to the amount of undergraduate [~~or graduate~~] tuition for residents of New York state charged by the state university of New York or actual tuition charged, whichever is less, for each semester, or the equivalent, of full time study, or a pro-rated amount for part-time study; provided, however, that such award shall not be reduced by any benefits available under the federal Montgomery GI Bill act of 1984 or the federal Pell grant program pursuant to section one thousand seventy-a of title twenty of the United States code.

§ 4. Section 4 of a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the education law relating to expanding eligibility under the veterans tuition awards program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8596-A and A. 9205-A, is amended to read as follows:

§ 4. This act shall take effect [~~immediately~~] **July 1, 2025**.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that sections one, two and three of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the education law relating to expanding eligibility under the veterans tuition awards program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8596-A and A. 9205-A, takes effect.