

HOUSE BILL No. 5161

October 24, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Dianda, Santana, Elder, Lucido, Cochran, Peterson, Clemente, Garrett, Rabhi, Sabo, Love, Brinks and Zemke and referred to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

A bill to establish an educational grant program for eligible resident veterans who are enrolled in certain science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses of study at public community colleges and universities in this state; to provide for the administration of the program; to create the battlefield to STEM education grant fund; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "battlefield to STEM education grant act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Academic year" means the period from September 1 of a
5 calendar year to August 31 of the next calendar year.

6 (b) "Battlefield to STEM education grant" means a grant

1 awarded by the department under section 5.

2 (c) "Community college" means a community college organized
3 under the community college act of 1966, 1966 PA 331, MCL 389.1 to
4 389.195, or under part 25 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451,
5 MCL 380.1601 to 380.1607.

6 (d) "Department" means the department of treasury.

7 (e) "Eligible expenses" means all of the following:

8 (i) Tuition and fees charged by a state educational
9 institution.

10 (ii) For a student attending a state educational institution,
11 the cost of attendance, expenses for books, supplies,
12 transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses, including a
13 reasonable allowance for the documented rental or purchase of a
14 personal computer, as described in 20 USC 1087*ll*(2), as determined
15 by the department.

16 (f) "Fiscal year" means the fiscal year of this state.

17 (g) "Fund" means the battlefield to STEM education grant fund
18 created under section 11.

19 (h) "Public university" means a university described in
20 section 4, 5, or 6 of article VIII of the state constitution of
21 1963.

22 (i) "Qualified STEM program" means a STEM designated course of
23 study leading to a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or
24 postsecondary certificate at a state educational institution.

25 (j) "State educational institution" means a degree- or
26 certificate-granting public university or community college in this
27 state.

1 (k) "STEM designated course of study" means an educational
2 program focused on 1 or more of the disciplines listed on the STEM-
3 designated degree program list maintained by the United States
4 Department of Homeland Security or 1 or more of the applied health
5 science disciplines, including, but not limited to, nursing,
6 physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.

7 (l) "Veteran" means that term as defined in section 2 of 1946
8 (1st Ex Sess) PA 9, MCL 35.602.

9 Sec. 5. (1) The battlefield to STEM education grant program is
10 established in the department. The department shall administer the
11 battlefield to STEM education grant program.

12 (2) The department shall do all of the following:

13 (a) Award grants to eligible veterans under this act.

14 (b) Develop a grant agreement to be entered into by a grant
15 recipient and the department that contains the terms of a grant
16 made under this act and the rights and obligations of the grant
17 recipient and the department.

18 (c) Conduct periodic audits of grant recipients to ensure
19 compliance with the terms of the grant agreement and take necessary
20 steps to enforce the terms of the grant agreement.

21 (d) Promulgate any rules that it determines are necessary to
22 implement and administer this act under the administrative
23 procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

24 Sec. 7. Beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, the
25 department shall award a grant under this act to a veteran if the
26 department determines that he or she meets all of the following
27 eligibility criteria:

1 (a) Continuously resided in this state for the 12 months
2 immediately preceding the date of his or her application and is not
3 a resident of any other state.

4 (b) Received a high school diploma from a school district,
5 nonpublic school, or home school located in this state or
6 successfully completed the general educational development (GED)
7 test and received a GED certificate from this state.

8 (c) Has been enrolled in and attending for not less than 1
9 year a qualified STEM program and has maintained at least a 2.0
10 grade point average in that program.

11 (d) Continues to be enrolled in and intends to continue
12 attending that qualified STEM program for the academic year for
13 which he or she seeks a grant under this act.

14 (e) Signs a written grant agreement with the department.

15 (f) Is in compliance with this act and the rules promulgated
16 under this act.

17 (g) Meets any other eligibility criteria established in rules
18 promulgated by the department under section 5.

19 Sec. 9. All of the following apply to the award of a
20 battlefield to STEM education grant under this act:

21 (a) For an academic year, the amount of the grant is 1 of the
22 following, as applicable, subject to subdivision (e):

23 (i) For an eligible veteran attending a qualified STEM program
24 full-time during that year, \$5,000.00.

25 (ii) For an eligible veteran attending a qualified STEM
26 program less than full-time during that year, a pro rata amount
27 proportionate to the amount awarded to a full-time student under

1 subparagraph (i).

2 (b) A grant receipt shall use the grant money he or she
3 receives in an academic year to pay for his or her tuition and fees
4 at the state educational institution. If the amount of his or her
5 grant exceeds the amount of his or her tuition and fees, the grant
6 recipient may use the grant money to pay other eligible expenses
7 related to that academic year. If the amount of his or her grant
8 exceeds the amount of his or her tuition and fees and other
9 eligible expenses in an academic year, the grant recipient shall
10 return the remaining balance to the department.

11 (c) A grant recipient shall not receive a grant in more than 4
12 academic years.

13 (d) The department shall disburse a grant recipient's grant
14 money to the state educational institution in which he or she is
15 enrolled on his or her behalf, according to a payment procedure
16 established by the department by rule.

17 (e) The annual cost of the total number of grants paid in a
18 fiscal year shall not exceed the amount appropriated by the
19 legislature for battlefield to STEM education grants in that fiscal
20 year. If there are not sufficient funds appropriated by the
21 legislature to provide each eligible veteran with a grant in the
22 amount to which he or she is eligible in an academic year, the
23 department shall establish a maximum grant level for that academic
24 year. In any fiscal year, the department may adjust the amount of a
25 battlefield to STEM education grant available to eligible veterans,
26 based upon its determination of available resources and amounts
27 appropriated.

1 Sec. 11. (1) The battlefield to STEM education grant fund is
2 created within the state treasury.

3 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from
4 any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall
5 direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit
6 to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

7 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall
8 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

9 (4) The department of treasury shall be the administrator of
10 the fund for auditing purposes.

11 (5) The department of treasury shall expend money from the
12 fund, upon appropriation, only for purposes of awarding battlefield
13 to STEM education grants under this act.

14 Sec. 13. By November 1 of each year, the department shall
15 submit a report on its activities under this act to the senate and
16 house fiscal agencies and the state budget director. The report
17 shall contain at least the number of battlefield to STEM education
18 grants awarded, the maximum amount of a battlefield to STEM
19 education grant paid, and the total amount paid out for battlefield
20 to STEM education grants in the immediately preceding fiscal year.

21 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the
22 date it is enacted into law.