
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

This bill makes various changes to the War Orphans Law, including modifying the process of appointments by the governor to the War Orphans Scholarship Board and extending the eligibility dates to determine "veteran" status.

Current law states that children of members of the armed services of the United States are eligible for the War Orphan scholarship if they had a parent who served for at least 90 days, or received a disability discharge, or died while a member of the armed services during the following periods:

- April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918
- December 7, 1941 to September 2, 1945
- June 25, 1950 to July 19, 1953
- January 1, 1960 to May 7, 1975
- August 2, 1990 to the end of operations conducted as a result of the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq

Under this bill, the dates of eligibility would be extended to include the following:

- December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
- June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955
- Any other period of conflict established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for pension purposes.

Although these changes could potentially increase the number of eligible children, it would not mandate an increase in the number of scholarships actually issued.

The bill also changes potential scholarship eligibility for dependents of veterans who were prisoners of war or missing in action as a result of U.S. participation in armed conflict. Under current law, POW/MIA eligibility is limited to service members who were residents of Ohio and became a POW/MIA in Southeast Asia on or after January 1, 1960. This bill removes the geographic requirement. Since these scholarships are issued in addition to the total number of War Orphans scholarships, the change in eligibility could cause a potential increase in expenditures. The scholarship is administered with general revenue funds in appropriation line item 235-504 in the Board of Regents. Am. Sub. H.B. 215, as Passed by the House of Representatives, appropriates \$3,531,840 in FY 1998 and \$3,637,795 in FY 1999.

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