

**2015 -- S 0749 SUBSTITUTE A**

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LC001778/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- TUITION FOR COVERED  
INDIVIDUALS UNDER A POST-911 GI BILL AND MONTGOMERY GI BILL

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: March 24, 2015

Referred To: Senate Education

(Human Services)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 30 of the General Laws entitled "MILITARY AFFAIRS AND  
2 DEFENSE" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 30.3

4 TUITION FOR COVERED INDIVIDUALS UNDER POST-911 GI BILL AND

5 MONTGOMERY GI BILL

6 **30-30.3-1. In-state tuition eligibility.** – (a) Pursuant to the reauthorization of the Federal  
7 Higher Education Act of 2008 and passage of the Veterans, Access, Choice and Accountability  
8 Act of 2014, the following individuals shall be entitled to pay tuition and fees at an institution of  
9 higher education at the rates provided for Rhode Island residents without regard to the length of  
10 time the person has lived in this state:

11 (1) Any active duty member or the spouse or dependent of an active duty member of any  
12 branch of the uniformed services who has been on active duty for a period of more than thirty  
13 (30) days; or

14 (2) Any active duty member who is injured while on active duty, and whose injuries  
15 causes him or her to be on active duty for a period of less than thirty (30) days; or

16 (3) Any veteran of the uniformed services who is eligible for Federal GI Bill educational  
17 benefits; or

18 (4) Any other individual who is eligible for transferred Federal GI Bill educational

1 benefits or the Fry Scholarship, provided that he or she lives in the state of Rhode Island while  
2 attending a Rhode Island public postsecondary institution.

3 (b) The council of postsecondary education shall develop a policy and rules and  
4 regulations to ensure that public postsecondary institutions in this state implement the changes set  
5 forth in this section.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- TUITION FOR COVERED  
INDIVIDUALS UNDER A POST-911 GI BILL AND MONTGOMERY GI BILL

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1           This act would conform to state law with the passage of Section 702 of the Veterans  
2 Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act"), which requires the United States  
3 Department of Veterans Affairs to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits  
4 under the Post-911 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty at public institutions of higher  
5 learning if the schools charge qualifying veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the  
6 rate for resident students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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