**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3453**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Rose, Pope, Spann-Wilder and J. Moore

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Introduced in the House on January 14, 2025

Introduced in the Senate on May 7, 2025

Last Amended on May 6, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Education**

Summary: Veterans' Children Tuition Assistance

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 12/5/2024 House Prefiled

 12/5/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs**

 1/14/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 205)

 1/14/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** (House Journal‑page 205)

 5/1/2025 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** (House Journal‑page 130)

 5/6/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: J. Moore

 5/6/2025 House Amended (House Journal‑page 46)

 5/6/2025 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 46)

 5/6/2025 House Roll call Yeas-101 Nays-7 (House Journal‑page 48)

 5/7/2025 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 8)

 5/7/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 7)

 5/7/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** (Senate Journal‑page 7)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3453&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/05/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3453_20241205.docx)

[05/01/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3453_20250501.docx)

[05/06/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3453_20250506.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

Amended

May 6, 2025

H. 3453

Introduced by Reps. Rose, Pope, Spann-Wilder and J. Moore

S. Printed 5/6/25--H.

Read the first time January 14, 2025

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑111‑20, RELATING TO FREE TUITION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS’ CHILDREN, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A VETERAN’S CHILD QUALIFIES FOR FREE TUITION IF THAT CHILD HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE BIRTH.

 Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑111‑20 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 59‑111‑20. (A) A child of a wartime veteran, upon application to and approval by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs, may be admitted to any state‑supported college, university, or post high school technical education institution free of tuition so long as his work and conduct is satisfactory to the governing body of the institution, if the veteran was a resident of this State at the time of entry into service and during service or has been a resident of this State for at least one year and still resides in this State or, if the veteran is deceased, resided in this State for one year before his death, or the veteran’s child has been a resident of this State since birth, and provided the veteran served honorably in a branch of the military service of the United States during a war period, as those periods are defined by Section 101 of Title 38 of the United States Code and:

 (1) was killed in action;

 (2) died from other causes while in the service;

 (3) died of disease or disability resulting from service;

 (4) was a prisoner of war as defined by Congress or Presidential proclamation during such war period;

 (5) is permanently and totally disabled, as determined by the Veterans Administration from any cause;

 (6) has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;

 (7) is missing in action;

 (8) the applicant is the child of a deceased veteran who qualified under items (4) and (5); or

 (9) has been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

 (B) The provisions of this section apply to a child of a veteran who meets the residency requirements of Chapter 112 of this title, is twenty‑six years of age or younger, and is pursuing any type of undergraduate degree.

SECTION 2. Section 59-112-50 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 59-112-50. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, during the period of their assignment to duty in South Carolina, members of the Armed Services, retired military personnel, and honorably discharged veterans of the United States stationed in South Carolina and their dependents are eligible for in-state tuition rates. When these armed service personnel are ordered away from the State, their dependents are eligible for in-state tuition rates as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the state institution in which they are enrolled at the time the assignment ends or transfer to an eligible institution during the term or semester, excluding summer terms, immediately following their enrollment at the previous institution. In the event of a transfer, the receiving institution shall verify the decision made by the student's previous institution in order to certify the student's eligibility for in-state tuition rates. It is the responsibility of the transferring student to ensure that all documents required to verify both the previous and present residency decisions are provided to the institution. These persons and their dependents are eligible for in-state tuition rates after their discharge from the armed services even though they were not enrolled at a state institution at the time of their discharge, if they have evidenced an intent to establish domicile in South Carolina and if they have resided in South Carolina for a period of at least twelve months immediately preceding their discharge. Active duty military personnel, retired military personnel, and honorably discharged veterans may be charged less than the undergraduate tuition rate for South Carolina residents for courses that are presented on a distance basis, regardless of residency.

 (B)(1) Active duty military personnel, retired military personnel, honorably discharged veterans, and their dependents may be charged less than the undergraduate tuition rate for South Carolina residents for courses that are presented on a distance basis, regardless of residency.

 (2) For purposes of this section, “active duty military personnel” includes, but is not limited to, active duty guardsmen and active duty reservists.

 (C)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a covered individual enrolled in a public institution of higher education and receiving educational assistance under Chapter 30, Chapter 31, and Chapter 33, Title 38 of the United States Code are entitled to pay in-state tuition and fees without regard to the length of time the covered individual has resided in this State.

 (2) For purposes of this subsection, a covered individual is defined as:

 (a) a veteran who served ninety days or longer on active duty in the uniformed service of the United States, their respective reserve forces, or the National Guard;

 (b) a person who is entitled to and receiving assistance under Section 3319, Title 38 of the United States Code by virtue of the person's relationship to the veteran described in subitem (a);

 (c) a person using transferred benefits under Section 3319, Title 38 of the United States Code while the transferor is on active duty in the uniformed service of the United States, their respective reserve forces, or the National Guard;

 (d) a person who is entitled to and receiving assistance under Section 3311(b)(9), Title 38 of the United States Code; or

 (e) a person who is entitled to and is receiving assistance under Section 3102(a), Title 38 of the United States Code.

 (3) A covered individual must live in this State while enrolled at the in-state institution.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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