

Military, Veterans, and Indian Affairs

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Add Admissions Preferences for Graduates of Certain Pre-K Programs and for Children of Military Families – Charter School Omnibus.

SL 2023-107 (H219), Sec. 4

Section 4 of S.L. 2023-107 allows the following students to receive priority admission to charter schools rather than being subject to an admissions lottery:

- Capped at up to 10% of total student enrollment, a preschool student enrolled at least 75 days of the prior semester in a preschool program with a written enrollment articulation agreement with the charter school.
- A student whose parent is on active military duty.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 21, 2023, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on August 16, 2023. This section of the act became effective August 16, 2023, and applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Clarify Definition of Eligible Private Institutions for Patriot Scholarship Programs – 2023 Appropriations Act.

SL 2023-134 (H259), Sec. 8.22

Section 8.22 of S.L. 2023-134 changes the private institutions at which students eligible to receive the Patriot Star Family Scholarship Program and the Patriot Star Family Recovery Scholarship Program can attend. The private institutions must be a junior college, senior college, or university that meets all of the following requirements:

- Is operated and governed by private interests not under the control of the federal government, the State, or any local government.
- Has a main permanent campus in the State.
- Does not operate for profit.
- Has a curriculum primarily directed toward awarding associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees.
- Is eligible to participate in the Children of Wartime Veterans scholarship program or is accredited by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education as a reliable authority concerning the quality of education or training offered by institutions of higher education.

This section became effective October 3, 2023, and applies to applications for scholarship awards submitted on or after that date.

Conform In-State Tuition for Military-Related Individuals to Federal Law – 2023 Appropriations Act.

SL 2023-134 (H259), Sec. 8A.10

Section 8A.10 of S.L. 2023-134 makes technical and conforming changes to the definitions for qualifying federal services members and their spouses and dependents to qualify for in-state tuition rates at North Carolina community colleges and constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina to align with federal definitions.

This section became effective October 3, 2023, and applies beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year.

Veterans Life Center Challenge Grant – 2023 Appropriations Act.

SL 2023-134 (H259), Sec. 33.3

Section 33.3 of S.L. 2023-134 establishes a challenge grant program in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) for the Veterans Life Center (Center) to provide rehabilitation and reintegration services and support to veterans across the State.

This section became effective on July 1, 2023.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - Children of Veterans' Scholarships. – 2023 Appropriations Act.

SL 2023-134 (H259), Sec. 33.4

Section 33.4 of S.L. 2023-134 makes the following changes to the North Carolina Scholarships for Children of Wartime Veterans Program (Program):

- Requires students who have been awarded scholarships under the Program to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 throughout the four academic years for which the student is eligible for a scholarship under the Program.
- Directs the Veterans' Affairs Commission (Commission) of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to require State and private educational institutions to annually report (i) the number of scholarship recipients who maintained a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 under the Program and (ii) the number of scholarship recipients who completed the degree requirements for graduation under the Program.
- Requires DVMA to annually report to various legislative committees the number of scholarship recipients who maintained a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 under the Program.

This section became effective July 1, 2023.

Prohibit Discrimination or Retaliation in Employment for Absences of Members of the Civil Air Patrol Performing Authorized Duties – Regulatory Reform Act of 2023.

SL 2023-137 (H600), Sec. 46

Section 46 of S.L. 2023-137 prevents employers from discriminating against any employee that is a member of the North Carolina Wing-Civil Air Patrol based on that membership or any absence from work required to perform duties with the Civil Air Patrol if certain conditions apply.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on October 2, 2023, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on October 10, 2023. This section became effective on December 1, 2023, and applies to absences occurring on or after that date.