

Legislative Analysis



TUITION RATES FOR VETERANS

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House Joint Resolution JJ

House Joint Resolution MM

Sponsor: Rep. Holly Hughes

Committee: Education

Complete to 5-17-12

A REVISED SUMMARY OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION "JJ" AS INTRODUCED 12-13-11 AND HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION "MM" AS INTRODUCED 1-26-12

House Joint Resolution JJ would amend Article VIII, Sections 5 and 6 of the State Constitution of 1963 to require that the board of a university consider a student enrolled in the university a resident of Michigan for determining the tuition rate if the student is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States.

House Joint Resolution MM would amend Article VIII, Section 7 of the State Constitution of 1963 to require that a community or junior college board consider a student as a resident of that college's district for determining the tuition rate if the student is an active duty member or an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States.

(This means these students, regardless of their place of residence, would not have to pay the more expensive rate charged to out-of-state or out-of-district residents.)

FISCAL IMPACT:

The constitutional amendment proposed in House Joint Resolution JJ would reduce tuition revenue collected by public universities from military veterans currently paying nonresident tuition rates at those universities who would become eligible to pay resident rates under the amendment's provisions. The amount of reduced revenue collections is indeterminate. No data is available on the number of university students who would be affected by the amendment.

According to the President Council, 13 public universities in Michigan (Central, Eastern, Grand Valley, Lake Superior State, Michigan State, Michigan Tech, Northern, Oakland, University of Michigan [three campuses], Wayne State, and Western) currently participate in the voluntary Yellow Ribbon Agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, under which eligible veterans effectively have the gap between resident and nonresident tuition rates partially or fully waived by the university.* (The agreement is limited to certain academic levels or programs in some cases.) The impact of the constitutional amendment would presumably be reduced or minimized at those universities.

The constitutional amendment proposed in House Joint Resolution MM would reduce tuition revenue collected by community colleges from military veterans who would otherwise pay out-of-district or out-of-state tuition. The amount of reduced revenue collections is indeterminate. No data is available to indicate the number of community college students who would be affected by the amendment.

*For more information about the Michigan Yellow Ribbon program, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs website at

http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/yellow_ribbon_program.html

http://gibill.va.gov/gi_bill_info/ch33/yrp/2012/states/mi.htm

The constitutional amendment proposed in House Joint Resolution MM would reduce tuition revenue collected by community colleges from military veterans who would otherwise pay out-of-district or out-of-state tuition. The amount of reduced revenue collections is indeterminate. No data is available to indicate the number of students who would be affected by this amendment.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.