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H.B. 569
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Higher Education and Career Readiness

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Holmes and White

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes state institutions of higher education, private, nonprofit colleges and universities, and for-profit career colleges to establish Ohio Hidden Hero Scholarship Programs.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish guidelines and procedures for such programs.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Ohio Hidden Hero Scholarship Programs

The bill authorizes all of the following institutions to establish an Ohio Hidden Hero Scholarship Program:

1. State institutions of higher education;
2. Private nonprofit colleges or universities; and
3. Private for-profit career colleges (“proprietary schools”).¹

Under the program, an institution must accept applications to participate from any enrolled who is an “eligible caregiver.” An “eligible caregiver” is an individual enrolled as a family caregiver under the federal Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers who provides care to a veteran who has a 100% service-connected disability.²

¹ R.C. 3333.421(B). *See also* R.C. 3345.19, not in bill.

² R.C. 3333.421(A)(1). Also see 38 U.S.C. 1720G, not in the bill.

The bill authorizes an institution to approve one or more applications in each academic year for which it receives applications. For each approved participant, the bill requires the institution to:³

1. Waive any tuition and fees remaining for an academic year after all other financial aid the participant qualifies for has been applied to the participant's account, as determined by the institution;
2. Provide the participant with a stipend, in an amount determined by the institution, to purchase textbooks each academic year;
3. Provide assistance to the participant to ensure the participant's college credits earned at the institution may be transferred to another institution of higher education; and
4. Provide the participant with an opportunity to earn any college credits for which the participant qualifies based on the participant's caregiver experiences, as determined by the institution.

Finally, the bill requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish guidelines and procedures for Ohio Hidden Hero programs, including an application form and deadline. It further requires that, as part of the application, an applicant must provide a letter of eligibility from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Chancellor also must establish a website regarding Ohio Hidden Hero programs within 90 days of the bill's effective date. The website must include a list of participating institutions of higher education.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-15-22
Reported, H. Higher Education and Career Readiness	05-18-22

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³ R.C. 3333.421(B)(1) to (4).

⁴ R.C. 3333.421(C).