

## **Military tuition bill passes House**

Staff Report

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A bill that gives in-state tuition to members of the military or their dependents who have been stationed in Kansas unanimously passed the Kansas House of Representatives Wednesday.

The bill, sponsored by Manhattan Rep. Sydney Carlin, makes eligible for in-state tuition any retired or honorably discharged member of the military who has ever had permanent duty orders in Kansas, and his or her spouse or dependents. The prospective student must be living in Kansas at the time of enrollment, registered to vote in Kansas, and have all family vehicles in Kansas registered in the state.

It also gives in-state tuition to those who once qualified as a military dependent but have lost that status through divorce or the death of the military member.

"I am pleased that the House fully supported this bill to provide educational opportunities to soldiers and their families," Carlin said. "It is good for soldiers; it is good for Manhattan and KSU, and it is good for Kansas."

Kansas State University student Meghann O'Harrah - who has lived in Kansas for four years and had been paying in-state tuition for two years - recently appealed a decision to charge her out-of-state tuition this semester. After a hearing, O'Harrah was granted in-state tuition.

K-State officials wouldn't comment on the details of O'Harrah's case, but she said she was to be denied the rate this spring because she and her now-ex-husband, who had been stationed at Fort Riley, filed an out-of-state tax return last year (her ex-husband claimed Texas residency.) O'Harrah said she had been told previously that she qualified for in-state tuition both because of her Kansas residency and because her spouse was based at Fort Riley, and officials recommended she use her military dependent status when applying for enrollment. Carlin said her bill would end similar problems.

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