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## DIGEST

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HB 1002 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Montoucet

**Abstract:** Authorizes certain honorably discharged active-duty military personnel and family to receive benefits through the La. Military Family Assistance Fund.

Present law establishes the La. Military Assistance Fund and provides that the funds are to be used for the following purposes:

- (1) To pay need based claims of family members of activated military personnel.
- (2) To provide for state administration of the program, not to exceed 5% of the amount deposited into the fund each fiscal year.
- (3) To provide for the third party administrator's expenses in administration of the program, not to exceed 5% of the amount deposited into the fund each fiscal year.
- (4) To pay transportation and other related costs of activated military personnel.
- (5) To conduct outreach activities for veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Present law defines "activated military personnel" as a person domiciled in La. for civilian purposes who has named La. as Home of Residence (HOR) for military purposes and is a member of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces and is called to active federal service in excess of 30 days or is a member of the La. National Guard and is called to active state service pursuant to present law.

Present law establishes the La. Military Family Assistance Board to evaluate claims and provides the procedure for evaluation.

Proposed law retains present law, but extends eligibility to families of honorably discharged active-duty military personnel. Further defines "honorably discharged active-duty military personnel" to mean a person domiciled in La. who was on full-time active duty in the military service of the U.S. and received an honorable discharge.

(Amends R.S. 46:121(4), 122(B)(1), and 123(B)(1) and (2), (D)(1)(a), (b), and (c)(iii), (E), (G)(1) and (2), and (K)(2), (3), and (4); Adds R.S. 46:121(5))