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# Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee

Senator Lisa Baker, Chair

Diane McNaughton, Executive Director

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

**Senate Bill 1489, Printer's No. 2116**

**Prime Sponsor: Sen. Lisa Baker**

### **SUMMARY:**

This bill extends the tuition waiver benefit to the children and spouse of any soldier killed in action, even when the soldier was not a resident of Pennsylvania at the time of death. This bill may help the children of a Guardsman killed in Afghanistan last summer. Although their late father had once been a resident of Pennsylvania, he had moved to Georgia before his death.

### **EXISTING LAW:**

Section 3503 of Title 51 provides for the tuition waiver benefit for the children and spouses of deceased soldiers.

### **ANALYSIS:**

Last year, a Guardsman was killed in Afghanistan but may not technically have been a resident of Pennsylvania at the time of his death. This bill ensures that his children and spouse---along with children in similar circumstances --are eligible to apply for the educational benefit to which other Pennsylvania children of fallen soldiers are entitled.

In the past 10 years, only two children have been affected by this residency issue, according to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA).

This bill is strongly supported by the DMVA.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This act shall take effect immediately, and the provisions are retroactive to September 11, 2001.

