

House Engrossed

tuition; family; post-traumatic stress; suicide

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HOUSE BILL 2354

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1808, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-1808, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-1808. Tuition waiver scholarships; eligibility;
5 definitions

6 A. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the Arizona
7 peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial
8 committee, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by the Arizona
9 department of veterans' services that a person is a child or ~~a~~ THE spouse
10 of a peace officer, correctional officer, firefighter, emergency
11 paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States armed
12 forces who was a resident of the state of Arizona or stationed in Arizona
13 and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered
14 in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall provide the
15 person who qualifies under subsection ~~B~~ D of this section and who
16 otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver
17 scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the ARIZONA board
18 OF REGENTS. A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification
19 by the Arizona peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fallen
20 firefighter memorial committee, by the adjutant general of the national
21 guard or by the Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is
22 the child or the spouse of a peace officer, correctional officer,
23 firefighter, emergency paramedic, national guard member or member of the
24 United States armed forces who was a resident of Arizona or stationed in
25 Arizona and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries
26 suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall
27 provide the person who qualifies under subsection ~~B~~ D of this section and
28 who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver
29 scholarship at any community college under the jurisdiction of the
30 district.

31 B. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, AFTER VERIFICATION BY THE ARIZONA
32 PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL BOARD, THE ARIZONA FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL
33 COMMITTEE OR THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES THAT A PERSON IS
34 A CHILD OR THE SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN
35 SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION, SHALL PROVIDE THE PERSON WHO QUALIFIES UNDER
36 SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION AND WHO OTHERWISE MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS
37 FOR ADMISSION WITH A TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP AT ANY UNIVERSITY UNDER
38 THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS. A DISTRICT AS DEFINED
39 IN SECTION 15-1401, AFTER VERIFICATION BY THE ARIZONA PEACE OFFICERS
40 MEMORIAL BOARD, THE ARIZONA FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OR THE
41 ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES THAT A PERSON IS A CHILD OR THE
42 SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION C
43 OF THIS SECTION, SHALL PROVIDE THE PERSON WHO QUALIFIES UNDER SUBSECTION D
44 OF THIS SECTION AND WHO OTHERWISE MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

1 WITH A TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP AT ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THE
2 JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT.

3 C. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP UNDER SUBSECTION
4 B OF THIS SECTION, THE APPLICANT MUST BE THE CHILD OR SPOUSE OF A PERSON
5 WHO MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

6 1. WAS A VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES OR SERVING OR
7 PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A PEACE OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER OR MEMBER OF THE UNITED
8 STATES ARMED FORCES AT THE TIME OF THE PERSON'S DEATH. IT IS NOT A
9 REQUIREMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH THAT THE PERSON WAS
10 EMPLOYED AS A PEACE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER OR WAS SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY
11 AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AT THE TIME OF THE PERSON'S
12 DEATH.

13 2. WAS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AT THE TIME OF THE PERSON'S DEATH.

14 3. SUFFERED A POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY IN THE LINE OF DUTY.
15 DOCUMENTATION THAT THE PEACE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER AT ANY POINT RECEIVED
16 A DISABILITY PENSION UNDER SECTION 38-844 FOR A POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
17 INJURY OR BENEFITS UNDER TITLE 38, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 4.2 FOR A
18 POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE PEACE
19 OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH. A
20 DISCHARGE OR OTHER DOCUMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SHOWING
21 THAT THE MEMBER OR VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WAS
22 DISCHARGED BECAUSE OF OR SUFFERED FROM A POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY, OR
23 DOCUMENTATION FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
24 SHOWING THAT THE MEMBER OR VETERAN SUFFERED FROM A POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
25 INJURY, IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE MEMBER OR VETERAN MET THE
26 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

27 4. DIED BY SUICIDE.

28 ~~B.~~ D. The tuition waiver scholarships shall be limited to children
29 who are thirty years of age or younger or a spouse who has not remarried
30 and shall be limited for a spouse or for any one child to not more than
31 sixty-four credit hours at Arizona community colleges and a total number
32 of credits including any transfer credits from an Arizona community
33 college equal to the number of credits required for a baccalaureate degree
34 at Arizona universities for that student's initially declared course of
35 study.

36 ~~C.~~ E. A member of the Arizona national guard who received a purple
37 heart citation on or after September 11, 2001 or a former member of the
38 Arizona national guard who was medically discharged from the Arizona
39 national guard due to an injury or disability suffered during status under
40 title 10, United States Code, in weekend training status, in annual
41 training status or in response to a state of emergency declared by the
42 governor is eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship provided for in this
43 section.

1 ~~D.~~ F. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the
2 Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is a member or
3 former member of the United States armed forces who received a purple
4 heart citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was
5 stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple
6 heart citation and whose disability rating determined by the United States
7 department of veterans affairs is fifty percent or more, shall provide the
8 person who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition
9 waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the
10 board. A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by
11 the Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is a member or
12 former member of the United States armed forces who received a purple
13 heart citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was
14 stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple
15 heart citation and whose disability rating determined by the United States
16 department of veterans affairs is fifty percent or more, shall provide the
17 person who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition
18 waiver scholarship at any community college under the jurisdiction of the
19 district. A person who is convicted of a felony is ineligible for a
20 tuition waiver scholarship AS provided ~~for~~ in this subsection.

21 ~~E.~~ G. For the purposes of this section:

22 1. "Correctional officer" means a person, other than an elected
23 official, who is employed by this state or a county, city or town and who
24 is responsible for the supervision, protection, care, custody or control
25 of inmates in a state, county or municipal correctional institution,
26 including counselors but excluding secretarial, clerical and
27 professionally trained personnel.

28 2. "Emergency paramedic" means a person who has been trained in an
29 emergency paramedic training program certified by the director of the
30 department of health services or in an equivalent training program and who
31 is certified by the director of the department of health services to
32 render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

33 3. "Firefighter" means a professional firefighter who is a member
34 of a state, federal, tribal, city, county, district or private fire
35 department.

36 4. "Peace ~~officers~~ OFFICER" means ~~sheriffs of counties~~ A COUNTY
37 SHERIFF, ~~constables~~ A CONSTABLE, ~~marshals~~ A MARSHAL, A police ~~officers of~~
38 ~~cities and towns~~ OFFICER OF A CITY OR TOWN, A PERSON WHO IS commissioned
39 ~~personnel of~~ BY the department of public safety and A police ~~officers~~
40 OFFICER WHO IS appointed by A community college district governing ~~boards~~
41 BOARD or the Arizona board of regents who ~~have~~ received a certificate from
42 the Arizona peace officer standards and training board, and ANY other
43 state, federal, tribal, city or county ~~officers~~ OFFICER WHO IS vested by
44 law with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests.

1 Sec. 2. Eligibility

2 A person who meets the requirements prescribed in section 15-1808,
3 subsections B and C, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act, on
4 the effective date of this act is eligible to receive a tuition waiver
5 scholarship as prescribed in this act regardless of the date on which the
6 eligible person's parent or spouse suffered the post-traumatic stress
7 injury and committed suicide.