

REFERENCE TITLE: **tuition; family; post-traumatic stress; suicide**

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

## **HB 2354**

Introduced by  
Representatives Biasiucci: Burges, Carter, Martinez, Pingerelli, Toma,  
Wilmeth, Senator Livingston

**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  
45 WITH A TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP AT ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THE  
46 JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT.

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

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

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

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

23 4. DIED BY SUICIDE.

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

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

40 ~~D.~~ F. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the  
41 Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is a member or  
42 former member of the United States armed forces who received a purple  
43 heart citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was  
44 stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple  
45 heart citation and whose disability rating determined by the United States  
46 department of veterans affairs is fifty percent or more, shall provide the

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

14 ~~F.~~ G. For the purposes of this section:

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

21 2. "Emergency paramedic" means a person who has been trained in an  
22 emergency paramedic training program certified by the director of the  
23 department of health services or in an equivalent training program and who  
24 is certified by the director of the department of health services to  
25 render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

26 3. "Firefighter" means a professional firefighter who is a member  
27 of a state, federal, tribal, city, county, district or private fire  
28 department.

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

38 Sec. 2. Eligibility

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