

REFERENCE TITLE: military veterans; surviving spouses; scholarships

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

## **HB 2089**

Introduced by  
Representative Payne

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1809, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO  
CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS FOR TUITION PURPOSES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-1809, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-1809. Spouses of military veterans tuition scholarship  
5 fund; tuition scholarships; eligibility; rules

6 A. The spouses of military veterans tuition scholarship fund is  
7 established consisting of legislative appropriations. The Arizona board  
8 of regents shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are continuously  
9 appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating  
10 to lapsing of appropriations. Subject to available monies, the Arizona  
11 board of regents shall use the monies in the fund to award tuition  
12 scholarships to any person who meets all of the following requirements:

13 1. Enrolls in a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona  
14 board of regents or in a community college as defined in section 15-1401.

15 2. Is the spouse, **OR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE WHO HAS NOT REMARRIED**, of  
16 an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United  
17 States. For the purposes of proving that the person's spouse is an  
18 honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States as  
19 required by this paragraph:

20 (a) The person shall submit proof of the honorable discharge or  
21 general discharge under honorable conditions of the person's spouse.

22 (b) The Arizona department of veterans' services shall verify that  
23 the person is the spouse, **OR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE WHO HAS NOT REMARRIED**,  
24 of an honorably discharged veteran.

25 3. Is entitled to classification as an in-state student under  
26 section 15-1802.

27 4. Is a resident of this state at the time of applying for a  
28 tuition scholarship and continues to be a resident of this state while  
29 receiving a tuition scholarship under this section.

30 5. Completes and submits the free application for federal student  
31 aid for each year that the person receives a tuition scholarship under  
32 this section.

33 6. Complies with the standards of satisfactory academic progress as  
34 established by the university or community college in which the person  
35 enrolls.

36 7. Completes a family educational rights and privacy act of 1974  
37 (P.L. 93-380; 88 Stat. ~~57~~ 571) release form for each university or  
38 community college in which the person is enrolled to authorize the release  
39 of personally identifiable information required to determine continued  
40 tuition scholarship eligibility under this section.

41 B. A person who meets the requirements prescribed in subsection A  
42 of this section may apply to the Arizona board of regents for a tuition  
43 scholarship from the fund in a manner prescribed by the Arizona board of  
44 regents. Subject to available monies, the Arizona board of regents shall  
45 award an eligible person a tuition scholarship that is equal to the amount

1 of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the university or community  
2 college in which the person is enrolled, reduced by the amount of any  
3 federal aid scholarships or public grants and any other financial gifts,  
4 grants or aid received by that person. The Arizona board of regents shall  
5 verify that the person satisfies the requirements prescribed in subsection  
6 A of this section before awarding a tuition scholarship. If the Arizona  
7 board of regents determines that a person no longer satisfies the  
8 requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section, the Arizona board  
9 of regents may not award a subsequent tuition scholarship from the fund  
10 until the person submits documentation showing that the person satisfies  
11 all requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section.

12 C. A tuition scholarship provided pursuant to this section shall  
13 be:

- 14 1. Limited to not more than four academic years or eight semesters.
- 15 2. Used only for a certificate, an associate degree or a  
16 baccalaureate degree.
- 17 3. Used only to pay tuition and mandatory fees at a university  
18 under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents or at a community  
19 college as defined in section 15-1401.

20 D. Tuition scholarships under this section shall be awarded on a  
21 first-come, first-served basis. If there are insufficient monies in the  
22 fund, the Arizona board of regents may not award a tuition scholarship to  
23 an eligible person under this section.

24 E. The Arizona board of regents may adopt rules for the purposes of  
25 administering this section.