

House Engrossed

tuition; family; posttraumatic stress; suicide

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

# HOUSE BILL 2336

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1808, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO  
POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

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

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

1 OF THE DISTRICT. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 15-1809, IF SUFFICIENT MONIES  
2 ARE AVAILABLE, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL DISTRIBUTE SURPLUS  
3 MONIES THAT WERE APPROPRIATED TO THE SPOUSES OF MILITARY VETERANS TUITION  
4 SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 15-1809 TO EACH UNIVERSITY UNDER  
5 THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED  
6 WITH THE TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION.

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

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

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

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

31 4. DIED BY SUICIDE.

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

40 ~~C.~~ E. A member of the Arizona national guard who received a purple  
41 heart citation on or after September 11, 2001 or a former member of the  
42 Arizona national guard who was medically discharged from the Arizona  
43 national guard due to an injury or disability suffered during status under  
44 title 10, United States Code, in weekend training status, in annual

1 training status or in response to a state of emergency declared by the  
2 governor is eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship provided for in this  
3 section.

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

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

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

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

37 3. "Firefighter" means a professional firefighter who is a member  
38 of a state, federal, tribal, city, county, district or private fire  
39 department.

40 4. "Peace ~~officers~~ OFFICER" means ~~sheriffs of counties~~ A COUNTY  
41 SHERIFF, ~~constables~~ A CONSTABLE, ~~marshals~~ A MARSHAL, A police ~~officers of~~  
42 ~~cities and towns~~ OFFICER OF A CITY OR TOWN, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS  
43 commissioned ~~personnel of~~ BY the department of public safety and A police  
44 ~~officers~~ OFFICER WHO IS appointed by A community college district

1 governing ~~boards~~ BOARD or the Arizona board of regents who ~~have~~ received a  
2 certificate from the Arizona peace officer standards and training board,  
3 and ANY other state, federal, tribal, city or county ~~officers~~ OFFICER WHO  
4 IS vested by law with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests.

5 Sec. 2. Eligibility

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