

REFERENCE TITLE: **tuition; family; posttraumatic stress; suicide**

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

HB 2336

Introduced by
Representatives Shah: Biasiucci, Martinez, Wilmeth

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

1 TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP AT ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THE JURISDICTION
2 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 WAS SERVING
7 OR PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A PEACE OFFICER, A FIREFIGHTER OR A MEMBER OF THE
8 UNITED 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 POSTTRAUMATIC 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 POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS
17 INJURY OR BENEFITS UNDER TITLE 38, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 4.2 FOR A
18 POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE PEACE OFFICER
19 OR FIREFIGHTER MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH. A DISCHARGE OR
20 OTHER DOCUMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SHOWING THAT THE MEMBER
21 OR VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WAS DISCHARGED BECAUSE OF OR
22 SUFFERED FROM A POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY, OR DOCUMENTATION FROM THE
23 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHOWING THAT THE MEMBER OR
24 VETERAN SUFFERED FROM A POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY, IS PRIMA FACIE
25 EVIDENCE THAT THE MEMBER OR VETERAN MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
26 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 board.
10 A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by the
11 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 class 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 felony is
20 ineligible for a tuition waiver scholarship AS provided ~~for~~ in this
21 subsection.

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

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

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

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

37 4. "Peace ~~officers~~ OFFICER" means ~~sheriffs of counties~~ A COUNTY
38 SHERIFF, ~~constables~~ A CONSTABLE, ~~marshals~~ A MARSHAL, A police ~~officers of~~
39 ~~cities and towns~~ OFFICER OF A CITY OR TOWN, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS
40 commissioned ~~personnel of~~ BY the department of public safety and A police
41 ~~officers~~ OFFICER WHO IS appointed by A community college district
42 governing ~~boards~~ BOARD or the Arizona board of regents who ~~have~~ received a
43 certificate from the Arizona peace officer standards and training board,

1 and ANY other state, federal, tribal, city or county ~~officers~~ OFFICER WHO
2 IS vested by law with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests.

3 Sec. 2. Eligibility

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