

House Engrossed

law enforcement; families; tuition scholarships

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

# HOUSE BILL 2420

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 15-1809.02; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 14, article 1, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-1809.02, to read:

4 15-1809.02. Spouses and dependents of law enforcement  
5 officers tuition scholarship fund; tuition  
6 scholarships; eligibility; rules; reporting  
7 requirements; definition

8 A. THE SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TUITION  
9 SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS.  
10 THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND. MONIES IN THE  
11 FUND ARE SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION AND ARE EXEMPT FROM THE  
12 PROVISIONS OF SECTION 35-190 RELATING TO LAPSING OF APPROPRIATIONS.  
13 SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE MONIES, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL USE THE  
14 MONIES IN THE FUND TO AWARD TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO ANY PERSON WHO MEETS  
15 BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

16 1. ENROLLS IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

17 (a) A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
18 REGENTS.

19 (b) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-1401.

20 (c) A CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT IS OFFERED TO ADULTS  
21 OR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED BY A CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
22 DISTRICT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-398.

23 (d) A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE  
24 THAT IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32, CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE 2.

25 2. IS EITHER:

26 (a) THE SPOUSE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

27 (b) UNDER TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF AGE AND A DEPENDENT OF A LAW  
28 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

29 B. A PERSON WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A  
30 OF THIS SECTION MAY APPLY TO THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS FOR A TUITION  
31 SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE FUND IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
32 REGENTS. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE MONIES, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL  
33 AWARD AN ELIGIBLE PERSON A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP THAT IS EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT  
34 OF TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES CHARGED BY THE UNIVERSITY, COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
35 OR CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICT IN WHICH THE PERSON IS ENROLLED,  
36 REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY FEDERAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS OR PUBLIC GRANTS AND  
37 ANY OTHER FINANCIAL GIFTS, GRANTS OR AID RECEIVED BY THAT PERSON, EXCEPT  
38 THAT IF THE PERSON IS ENROLLED IN A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL  
39 INSTITUTION, THE TUITION SCHOLARSHIP MAY NOT EXCEED THE REMAINDER OF THE  
40 AVERAGE IN-STATE TUITION AND FEES CHARGED BY UNIVERSITIES UNDER THE  
41 JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS MINUS OTHER GIFTS AND AID  
42 AWARDED TO THAT PERSON. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL VERIFY THAT  
43 THE PERSON SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS  
44 SECTION BEFORE AWARDING A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP. IF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
45 REGENTS DETERMINES THAT A PERSON NO LONGER SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS

1 PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS  
2 MAY NOT AWARD A SUBSEQUENT TUITION SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE FUND UNTIL THE  
3 PERSON SUBMITS DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE PERSON SATISFIES ALL  
4 REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION.

5 C. A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL  
6 BE:

7 1. LIMITED TO NOT MORE THAN FOUR ACADEMIC YEARS OR EIGHT SEMESTERS.

8 2. USED ONLY FOR A CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICT PROGRAM  
9 CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE, A PRIVATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAM AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
10 32-3001, AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.

11 3. USED ONLY TO PAY TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AT A CAREER  
12 TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICT, A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL  
13 INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE THAT IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO TITLE 32, CHAPTER  
14 30, ARTICLE 2, A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
15 REGENTS OR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-1401. IF THE  
16 APPLICANT IS NOT CHARGED TO ATTEND A CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICT  
17 PROGRAM, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS MAY NOT AWARD THE APPLICANT A  
18 TUITION SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION.

19 D. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE AWARDED ON A  
20 FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. IF THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT MONIES IN THE  
21 FUND, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS MAY NOT AWARD A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP TO  
22 AN ELIGIBLE PERSON UNDER THIS SECTION.

23 E. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS MAY RELY ON A COPY OF THE LAW  
24 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S COMMISSION CARD AND A CURRENT EMPLOYMENT  
25 VERIFICATION LETTER FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S EMPLOYER TO  
26 ESTABLISH THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE PURPOSES  
27 OF THIS SECTION.

28 F. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS MAY ADOPT RULES FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
29 ADMINISTERING THIS SECTION.

30 G. ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE ARIZONA  
31 BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL REPORT TO THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
32 AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGETING ON ALL OF  
33 THE FOLLOWING:

34 1. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP  
35 UNDER THIS SECTION BY ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN THE CURRENT  
36 ACADEMIC YEAR.

37 2. THE TOTAL AMOUNTS AWARDED AND AVERAGE AMOUNTS AWARDED BY  
38 ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR.

39 3. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP  
40 UNDER THIS SECTION AND WHO GRADUATED OR COMPLETED A PROGRAM OF STUDY BY  
41 ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION.

42 4. EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT EMPLOYS A LAW ENFORCEMENT  
43 OFFICER WHOSE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT, OR BOTH, RECEIVES A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP  
44 UNDER THIS SECTION.

1 H. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER"  
2 MEANS A PERSON WHO IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS EITHER A PEACE OFFICER AS  
3 DEFINED IN SECTION 15-1808 OR A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER.

4 Sec. 2. Appropriation; spouses and dependents of law  
5 enforcement officers tuition scholarship fund;  
6 intent

7 A. The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated from the state general  
8 fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the spouses and dependents of law  
9 enforcement officers tuition scholarship fund established by section  
10 15-1809.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act, and is  
11 appropriated from the spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers  
12 tuition scholarship fund to the Arizona board of regents.

13 B. The legislature intends that the appropriation made in  
14 subsection A of this section be considered ongoing funding in future  
15 years.