

House Engrossed

higher education; 2024-2025

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HOUSE BILL 2904

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE 6, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-1705; AMENDING LAWS 2023, CHAPTER 140, SECTION 6;
APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO HIGHER 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 13, article 6, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-1705, to read:

4 15-1705. Arizona community colleges promise program;
5 eligibility; fund; definitions

6 A. IF MONIES ARE APPROPRIATED TO THE ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
7 PROMISE PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED BY SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION, EACH
8 DISTRICT IN THIS STATE SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
9 PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONSISTING OF MONIES RECEIVED PURSUANT TO
10 SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION, GRANTS, GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEVISES.
11 MONIES IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY
12 APPROPRIATED AND MAY BE USED FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
13 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS. EACH DISTRICT MAY USE UP TO TEN PERCENT OF THE MONIES
14 THE DISTRICT RECEIVES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION FOR
15 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES. IF THERE ARE
16 INSUFFICIENT MONIES IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO
17 PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, THE DISTRICT SHALL
18 CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WHEN ESTABLISHING SCHOLARSHIP PRIORITIES:

19 1. SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS THAT POSE BARRIERS TO STUDENT SUCCESS, AS
20 DETERMINED BY THE DISTRICT.

21 2. A STUDENT'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN
22 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS.

23 3. ADDITIONAL FACTORS AS DETERMINED BY THE DISTRICT.

24 B. A STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A FINANCIAL AID AWARD PURSUANT TO THIS
25 SECTION IF THE STUDENT:

26 1. FOR AN INITIAL AWARD:

27 (a) QUALIFIES FOR RESIDENT STUDENT STATUS AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION
28 15-1802.01.

29 (b) SATISFIES THE ADMISSION STANDARDS AS DETERMINED BY THE
30 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

31 (c) COMPLETES AND SUBMITS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT
32 AID AND MEETS THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR A FEDERAL PELL GRANT.

33 (d) IS ADMITTED TO AND ENROLLED IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

34 2. TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY AFTER RECEIVING AN INITIAL AWARD:

35 (a) ANNUALLY COMPLETES AND SUBMITS THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
36 STUDENT AID.

37 (b) MAINTAINS ENROLLMENT AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

38 (c) MAINTAINS SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS.

39 (d) COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OF
40 ELIGIBILITY ADOPTED BY THE DISTRICT, DISTRICT BOARD OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

41 C. EACH DISTRICT BOARD OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL ESTABLISH A
42 POLICY OR GUIDELINES OUTLINING QUALIFIED EXPENSES FOR WHICH A STUDENT MAY
43 USE MONIES FROM A FINANCIAL AID AWARD PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. ANY
44 POLICY OR GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION MUST ALLOW AN

1 AWARD RECIPIENT TO USE THE MONIES FOR ANY COST OF ATTENDING THE COMMUNITY
2 COLLEGE AND MAY NOT REQUIRE THE MONIES TO BE USED ONLY FOR TUITION.

3 D. A DISTRICT SHALL REDUCE A STUDENT'S FINANCIAL AID AWARD PURSUANT
4 TO THIS SECTION BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY OTHER FEDERAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, PUBLIC
5 GRANT AND PUBLIC AID RECEIVED BY THE STUDENT FROM OR THROUGH THE COMMUNITY
6 COLLEGE IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED, INCLUDING LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP
7 PROGRAMS, EXCEPT THAT THE AWARD MAY NOT BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF
8 FEDERAL GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE STUDENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY
9 PURSUANT TO THE ARIZONA EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM.

10 E. THE ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES PROMISE PROGRAM FUND IS
11 ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. THE ARIZONA BOARD
12 OF REGENTS SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY
13 APPROPRIATED AND EXEMPT FROM SECTION 35-190 RELATING TO LAPSING OF
14 APPROPRIATIONS. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL DISTRIBUTE MONIES IN
15 THE FUND TO EACH DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

16 1. TWENTY PERCENT OF THE MONIES APPROPRIATED FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR
17 SHALL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY AMONG ALL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE.

18 2. EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE MONIES APPROPRIATED FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR
19 SHALL BE DIVIDED PROPORTIONATELY AMONG ALL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE BASED
20 ON EACH DISTRICT'S FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT RELATIVE TO THE
21 STATEWIDE AUDITED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR THE
22 PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-1466.01.

23 F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

24 1. "COMMUNITY COLLEGE" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION
25 15-1401.

26 2. "DISTRICT" MEANS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ESTABLISHED
27 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 15-1402 AND 15-1403.

28 3. "DISTRICT BOARD" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION
29 15-1401.

30 Sec. 2. Laws 2023, chapter 140, section 6 is amended to read:

31 Sec. 6. Spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers
32 tuition scholarship fund; tuition scholarships;
33 eligibility; rules; reporting requirements; delayed
34 repeal; transfer of monies; definition

35 A. The spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers tuition
36 scholarship fund is established consisting of legislative appropriations.
37 The Arizona board of regents shall administer the fund. Monies in the
38 fund are continuously appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of
39 section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to lapsing of
40 appropriations. ~~In fiscal years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and~~
41 ~~2026-2027 and~~ Subject to available monies, the Arizona board of regents
42 shall use the monies in the fund to award tuition scholarships to any
43 individual who meets both of the following requirements:

- 1 1. Enrolls in any of the following:
- 2 (a) A university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of
- 3 regents.
- 4 (b) A community college as defined in section 15-1401, Arizona
- 5 Revised Statutes.
- 6 (c) A career technical education program that is offered to adults
- 7 or an associate degree program offered by a career technical education
- 8 district pursuant to section 15-398, Arizona Revised Statutes.
- 9 (d) A private postsecondary educational institution in this state
- 10 that is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 30, article 2, Arizona
- 11 Revised Statutes.
- 12 2. Is either:
- 13 (a) The spouse of a law enforcement officer.
- 14 (b) Under twenty-seven years of age and a dependent of a law
- 15 enforcement officer.
- 16 B. An individual who meets the requirements prescribed in
- 17 subsection A of this section may apply to the Arizona board of regents for
- 18 a tuition scholarship from the fund in a manner prescribed by the Arizona
- 19 board of regents. Subject to available monies, the Arizona board of
- 20 regents shall award an eligible individual a tuition scholarship that is
- 21 equal to the amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the
- 22 university, community college or career technical education district in
- 23 which the individual is enrolled, reduced by the amount of any federal aid
- 24 scholarships or public grants and any other financial gifts, grants or aid
- 25 received by that individual, except that if the individual is enrolled in
- 26 a private postsecondary educational institution, the tuition scholarship
- 27 may not exceed the remainder of the average in-state tuition and fees
- 28 charged by universities under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of
- 29 regents minus other gifts and aid awarded to that individual. The Arizona
- 30 board of regents shall verify that the individual satisfies the
- 31 requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section before awarding a
- 32 tuition scholarship. If the Arizona board of regents determines that an
- 33 individual no longer satisfies the requirements prescribed in subsection A
- 34 of this section, the Arizona board of regents may not distribute
- 35 additional monies from the fund to the individual until the individual
- 36 submits documentation showing that the individual satisfies all
- 37 requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section.
- 38 C. A tuition scholarship provided pursuant to this section shall
- 39 be:
- 40 1. Limited to not more than four academic years or eight semesters.
- 41 2. Used only for a career technical education district program
- 42 certificate or license, a private vocational program as defined in section
- 43 32-3001, Arizona Revised Statutes, an associate degree or a baccalaureate
- 44 degree.

1 3. Used only to pay tuition and mandatory fees at a career
2 technical education district, a private postsecondary educational
3 institution in this state that is licensed pursuant to title 32,
4 chapter 30, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes, a university under the
5 jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents or a community college as
6 defined in section 15-1401, Arizona Revised Statutes. If the applicant is
7 not charged to attend a career technical education district program, the
8 Arizona board of regents may not award the applicant a tuition scholarship
9 under this section.

10 D. Tuition scholarships under this section shall be awarded on a
11 first-come, first-served basis. If there are insufficient monies in the
12 fund, the Arizona board of regents may not award a tuition scholarship to
13 an eligible individual under this section.

14 E. The Arizona board of regents may rely on a copy of the law
15 enforcement officer's commission card and a current employment
16 verification letter from the law enforcement officer's employer to
17 establish that an individual is a law enforcement officer for the purposes
18 of this section.

19 F. The Arizona board of regents may adopt rules for the purposes of
20 administering this section.

21 G. On or before March 1, 2024 and each year thereafter, the Arizona
22 board of regents shall report to the joint legislative budget committee
23 and the governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting on all of
24 the following:

25 1. The total number of students who received a tuition scholarship
26 under this section by eligible postsecondary institution in the current
27 academic year.

28 2. The total amounts awarded and average amounts awarded under this
29 section by eligible postsecondary institution in the current academic
30 year.

31 3. The total number of students who received a tuition scholarship
32 under this section and who graduated or completed a program of study by
33 eligible postsecondary institution.

34 4. Each law enforcement agency that employs a law enforcement
35 officer whose spouse or dependent, or both, receives a tuition scholarship
36 under this section.

37 H. FROM AND AFTER JUNE 30, 2025, THIS SECTION IS REPEALED AND ALL
38 UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONIES REMAINING IN THE SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS
39 OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TUITION SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED BY THIS
40 SECTION ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND.

41 ~~H.~~ I. For the purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer"
42 means an individual who is currently employed as either a peace officer as
43 defined in section 15-1808, Arizona Revised Statutes, or a correctional
44 officer.

