

REFERENCE TITLE: higher education; 2024-2025

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

HB 2904

Introduced by
Representative Livingston (with permission of Committee on Rules)

AN ACT

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

3 Sec. 6. Spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers
4 tuition scholarship fund; tuition scholarships;
5 eligibility; rules; reporting requirements; delayed
6 repeal; transfer of monies; definition

7 A. The spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers tuition
8 scholarship fund is established consisting of legislative appropriations.
9 The Arizona board of regents shall administer the fund. Monies in the
10 fund are continuously appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of
11 section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to lapsing of
12 appropriations. ~~In fiscal years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and~~
13 ~~2026-2027 and~~ Subject to available monies, the Arizona board of regents
14 shall use the monies in the fund to award tuition scholarships to any
15 individual who meets 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, Arizona
20 Revised Statutes.

21 (c) A career technical education program that is offered to adults
22 or an associate degree program offered by a career technical education
23 district pursuant to section 15-398, Arizona Revised Statutes.

24 (d) A private postsecondary educational institution in this state
25 that is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 30, article 2, Arizona
26 Revised Statutes.

27 2. Is either:

28 (a) The spouse of a law enforcement officer.

29 (b) Under twenty-seven years of age and a dependent of a law
30 enforcement officer.

31 B. An individual who meets the requirements prescribed in
32 subsection A of this section may apply to the Arizona board of regents for
33 a tuition scholarship from the fund in a manner prescribed by the Arizona
34 board of regents. Subject to available monies, the Arizona board of
35 regents shall award an eligible individual a tuition scholarship that is
36 equal to the amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the
37 university, community college or career technical education district in
38 which the individual is enrolled, reduced by the amount of any federal aid
39 scholarships or public grants and any other financial gifts, grants or aid
40 received by that individual, except that if the individual is enrolled in
41 a private postsecondary educational institution, the tuition scholarship
42 may not exceed the remainder of the average in-state tuition and fees
43 charged by universities under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of
44 regents minus other gifts and aid awarded to that individual. The Arizona
45 board of regents shall verify that the individual satisfies the

1 requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section before awarding a
2 tuition scholarship. If the Arizona board of regents determines that an
3 individual no longer satisfies the requirements prescribed in subsection A
4 of this section, the Arizona board of regents may not distribute
5 additional monies from the fund to the individual until the individual
6 submits documentation showing that the individual satisfies all
7 requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section.

8 C. A tuition scholarship provided pursuant to this section shall
9 be:

- 10 1. Limited to not more than four academic years or eight semesters.
- 11 2. Used only for a career technical education district program
12 certificate or license, a private vocational program as defined in section
13 32-3001, Arizona Revised Statutes, an associate degree or a baccalaureate
14 degree.
- 15 3. Used only to pay tuition and mandatory fees at a career
16 technical education district, a private postsecondary educational
17 institution in this state that is licensed pursuant to title 32,
18 chapter 30, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes, a university under the
19 jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents or a community college as
20 defined in section 15-1401, Arizona Revised Statutes. If the applicant is
21 not charged to attend a career technical education district program, the
22 Arizona board of regents may not award the applicant a tuition scholarship
23 under this section.

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

28 E. The Arizona board of regents may rely on a copy of the law
29 enforcement officer's commission card and a current employment
30 verification letter from the law enforcement officer's employer to
31 establish that an individual is a law enforcement officer for the purposes
32 of this section.

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

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

- 39 1. The total number of students who received a tuition scholarship
40 under this section by eligible postsecondary institution in the current
41 academic year.
- 42 2. The total amounts awarded and average amounts awarded under this
43 section by eligible postsecondary institution in the current academic
44 year.

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

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

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

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

15 Sec. 2. Financial aid trust fund; required state match;
16 reduction

17 Notwithstanding section 15-1642, subsection C, Arizona Revised
18 Statutes, for fiscal year 2024-2025, each dollar raised pursuant to the
19 surcharge on student registration fees assessed pursuant to section
20 15-1642, subsection A, Arizona Revised Statutes, may be matched by less
21 than \$2 appropriated by the legislature.

22 Sec. 3. Community college districts; state aid for science,
23 technology, engineering and mathematics and
24 workforce programs

25 Notwithstanding section 15-1464, subsection A, paragraph 3, Arizona
26 Revised Statutes, state aid for science, technology, engineering and
27 mathematics and workforce programs for community college districts for
28 fiscal year 2024-2025 is as specified in the general appropriations act.

29 Sec. 4. Community college districts; operating state aid;
30 eligibility; limits

31 Notwithstanding section 15-1466, Arizona Revised Statutes, operating
32 state aid for community college districts for fiscal year 2024-2025 is as
33 specified in the general appropriations act.