

Senate Engrossed

military veteran spouses; tuition scholarships

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SENATE BILL 1409

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1809, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-1809, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-1809. Spouses of military veterans tuition scholarship
5 fund; tuition scholarships; eligibility; rules

6 A. The spouses of military veterans tuition scholarship fund is
7 established consisting of legislative appropriations. The Arizona board
8 of regents shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are continuously
9 appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating
10 to lapsing of appropriations. Subject to available monies, the Arizona
11 board of regents shall use the monies in the fund to award tuition
12 scholarships to any person who meets all of the following requirements:

13 1. Enrolls in ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

14 (a) A university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of
15 regents.

16 (b) A PROGRAM THAT IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS'
17 SERVICES PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-603, SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 9 AND OFFERED
18 BY A DEGREE-GRANTING PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN THIS
19 STATE ~~or in~~.

20 (c) A community college as defined in section 15-1401.

21 2. Is the spouse of an honorably discharged veteran of the armed
22 forces of the United States. For the purposes of proving that the
23 person's spouse is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of
24 the United States as required by this paragraph:

25 (a) The person shall submit proof of the honorable discharge or
26 general discharge under honorable conditions of the person's spouse.

27 (b) The ~~Arizona~~ department of veterans' services shall verify that
28 the person is the spouse of an honorably discharged veteran.

29 3. Is entitled to classification as an in-state student under
30 section 15-1802.

31 4. Is a resident of this state at the time of applying for a
32 tuition scholarship and continues to be a resident of this state while
33 receiving a tuition scholarship under this section.

34 5. Completes and submits the free application for federal student
35 aid for each year that the person receives a tuition scholarship under
36 this section.

37 6. Complies with the standards of satisfactory academic progress as
38 established by the university, PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL
39 INSTITUTION or community college in which the person enrolls.

40 7. Completes a family educational rights and privacy act of 1974
41 (P.L. 93-380; 88 Stat. ~~57~~ 571) release form for each university, PRIVATE
42 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION or community college in which the
43 person is enrolled to authorize the release of personally identifiable
44 information required to determine continued tuition scholarship
45 eligibility under this section.

1 B. A person who meets the requirements prescribed in subsection A
2 of this section may apply to the Arizona board of regents for a tuition
3 scholarship from the fund in a manner prescribed by the Arizona board of
4 regents. ~~Subject to available monies, the Arizona board of regents shall~~
5 ~~award an eligible person a tuition scholarship that is equal to the amount~~
6 ~~of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the university or community~~
7 ~~college in which the person is enrolled, reduced by the amount of any~~
8 ~~federal aid scholarships or public grants and any other financial gifts,~~
9 ~~grants or aid received by that person.~~ The Arizona board of regents shall
10 verify that the person satisfies the requirements prescribed in subsection
11 A of this section before awarding a tuition scholarship. If the Arizona
12 board of regents determines that a person no longer satisfies the
13 requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section, the Arizona board
14 of regents may not award a subsequent tuition scholarship from the fund
15 until the person submits documentation showing that the person satisfies
16 all requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section. **SUBJECT TO**
17 **AVAILABLE MONIES, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS SHALL AWARD AN ELIGIBLE**
18 **PERSON A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF EITHER:**

19 1. FOR A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF
20 THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS OR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION
21 15-1401, THE TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES CHARGED BY THE UNIVERSITY OR
22 COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN WHICH THE PERSON IS ENROLLED, REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT
23 OF ANY FEDERAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS OR PUBLIC GRANTS AND ANY OTHER FINANCIAL
24 GIFTS, GRANTS OR AID RECEIVED BY THAT STUDENT.

25 2. FOR A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A DEGREE-GRANTING PRIVATE
26 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE, UP TO THE REMAINDER
27 OF THE AVERAGE IN-STATE TUITION AND FEES CHARGED BY UNIVERSITIES UNDER THE
28 JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF ANY
29 FEDERAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS OR PUBLIC GRANTS AND ANY OTHER FINANCIAL GIFTS,
30 GRANTS OR AID RECEIVED BY THAT STUDENT.

31 C. A tuition scholarship provided pursuant to this section shall
32 be:

- 33 1. Limited to not more than four academic years or eight semesters.
- 34 2. Used only for a certificate, an associate degree or a
35 baccalaureate degree.
- 36 3. Used only to pay tuition and mandatory fees at a university
37 under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, **AT A**
38 **DEGREE-GRANTING PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN THIS**
39 **STATE** or at a community college as defined in section 15-1401.

40 D. Tuition scholarships under this section shall be awarded on a
41 first-come, first-served basis. If there are insufficient monies in the
42 fund, the Arizona board of regents may not award a tuition scholarship to
43 an eligible person under this section.

44 E. The Arizona board of regents may adopt rules for the purposes of
45 administering this section.