

REFERENCE TITLE: **tuition waiver; veterans; felonies; eligibility**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HB 2823

Introduced by
Representatives Wilmeth: Abraham, Andrade, Jermaine, Kaiser

AN ACT

**AMENDING SECTION 15-1808, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

Section 1. Section 15-1808, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-1808. Tuition waiver scholarships; eligibility; definitions

A. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the Arizona peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial committee, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by the Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is a child or ~~a~~ THE spouse of a peace officer, correctional officer, firefighter, emergency paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States armed forces who was a resident of the state of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall provide the person who qualifies under subsection B of this section and who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the ARIZONA board OF REGENTS. A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by the Arizona peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial committee, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by the Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is the child or the spouse of a peace officer, correctional officer, firefighter, emergency paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States armed forces who was a resident of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall provide the person who qualifies under subsection B of this section and who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any community college under the jurisdiction of the district.

B. The tuition waiver scholarships shall be limited to children who are thirty years of age or younger or a spouse who has not remarried and shall be limited for a spouse or for any one child to not more than sixty-four credit hours at Arizona community colleges and a total number of credits including any transfer credits from an Arizona community college equal to the number of credits required for a baccalaureate degree at Arizona universities for that student's initially declared course of study.

C. A member of the Arizona national guard who received a purple heart citation on or after September 11, 2001 or a former member of the Arizona national guard who was medically discharged from the Arizona national guard due to an injury or disability suffered during status under title 10, United States Code, in weekend training status, in annual training status or in response to a state of emergency declared by the governor is eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship provided for in this section.

1 D. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the Arizona
2 department of veterans' services that a person is a member or former
3 member of the United States armed forces who received a purple heart
4 citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was stationed in
5 Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple heart
6 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 felony is ineligible for a~~
20 ~~tuition waiver scholarship provided for in this subsection.~~

21 E. For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

36 4. "Peace officers" means sheriffs of counties, constables,
37 marshals, police officers of cities and towns, commissioned personnel of
38 the department of public safety and police officers appointed by community
39 college district governing boards or the Arizona board of regents who have
40 received a certificate from the Arizona peace officer standards and
41 training board, and other state, federal, tribal, city or county officers
42 vested by law with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests.