

Senate Engrossed

higher education; 2023-2024.

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SENATE BILL 1727

AN ACT

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. Financial aid trust fund; required state match;
3 reduction

4 Notwithstanding section 15-1642, subsection C, Arizona Revised
5 Statutes, for fiscal year 2023-2024, each dollar raised pursuant to the
6 surcharge on student registration fees assessed pursuant to section
7 15-1642, subsection A, Arizona Revised Statutes, may be matched by less
8 than \$2 appropriated by the legislature.

9 Sec. 2. Arizona veterinary loan assistance fund; investment
10 earnings; retroactivity; delayed repeal

11 A. In fiscal year 2023-2024, on notice from the Arizona board of
12 regents, the state treasurer shall invest and divest monies in the Arizona
13 veterinary loan assistance fund established by section 15-1650.06, Arizona
14 Revised Statutes, as provided by section 35-313, Arizona Revised Statutes,
15 and monies earned from investment shall be credited to the fund.

16 B. This section applies retroactively to from and after June 30,
17 2023.

18 C. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2024.

19 Sec. 3. Spouses of military veterans tuition scholarship
20 fund; investment earnings; retroactivity; delayed
21 repeal

22 A. In fiscal year 2023-2024, on notice from the Arizona board of
23 regents, the state treasurer shall invest and divest monies in the spouses
24 of military veterans tuition scholarship fund established by section
25 15-1809, Arizona Revised Statutes, as provided by section 35-313, Arizona
26 Revised Statutes, and monies earned from investment shall be credited to
27 the fund.

28 B. This section applies retroactively to from and after June 30,
29 2023.

30 C. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2024.

31 Sec. 4. Community college districts; state aid for science,
32 technology, engineering and mathematics and
33 workforce programs

34 Notwithstanding section 15-1464, subsection A, paragraph 3, Arizona
35 Revised Statutes, state aid for science, technology, engineering and
36 mathematics and workforce programs for community college districts for
37 fiscal year 2023-2024 is as specified in the general appropriations act.

38 Sec. 5. Community college districts; operating state aid;
39 eligibility; limits

40 Notwithstanding section 15-1466, Arizona Revised Statutes, operating
41 state aid for community college districts for fiscal year 2023-2024 is as
42 specified in the general appropriations act.

Sec. 6. Spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers
tuition scholarship fund; tuition scholarships;
eligibility; rules; reporting requirements;
definition

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

1. Enrolls in any of the following:

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

(b) A community college as defined in section 15-1401, Arizona Revised Statutes.

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

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

2. Is either:

(a) The spouse of a law enforcement officer.

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

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

1 individual no longer satisfies the requirements prescribed in subsection A
2 of this section, the Arizona board of regents may not distribute
3 additional monies from the fund to the individual until the individual
4 submits documentation showing that the individual satisfies all
5 requirements prescribed in subsection A of this section.

6 C. A tuition scholarship provided pursuant to this section shall
7 be:

8 1. Limited to not more than four academic years or eight semesters.

9 2. Used only for a career technical education district program
10 certificate or license, a private vocational program as defined in section
11 32-3001, Arizona Revised Statutes, an associate degree or a baccalaureate
12 degree.

13 3. Used only to pay tuition and mandatory fees at a career
14 technical education district, a private postsecondary educational
15 institution in this state that is licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter
16 30, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes, a university under the
17 jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents or a community college as
18 defined in section 15-1401, Arizona Revised Statutes. If the applicant is
19 not charged to attend a career technical education district program, the
20 Arizona board of regents may not award the applicant a tuition scholarship
21 under this section.

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

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

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

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

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

40 2. The total amounts awarded and average amounts awarded under this
41 section by eligible postsecondary institution in the current academic
42 year.

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

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

4 H. For the purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer"
5 means an individual who is currently employed as either a peace officer as
6 defined in section 15-1808, Arizona Revised Statutes, or a correctional
7 officer.

8 Sec. 7. Arizona area health education system; primary care
9 residency programs; definitions

10 A. The Arizona board of regents shall distribute monies
11 appropriated for primary care residency programs in fiscal year 2023-2024
12 to the Arizona area health education system established pursuant to
13 section 15-1643, Arizona Revised Statutes, to establish a program for
14 qualifying community health centers, rural health clinics and tribal
15 health facilities that does all of the following:

16 1. Supports and expands the number of primary care residency
17 positions.

18 2. Provides support and technical assistance for starting or
19 expanding primary care residency programs in rural areas and health
20 professional shortage areas.

21 3. Facilitates information and resource sharing and provides
22 training and technical assistance, including preceptor training and
23 development, continuing education, medical library access and other
24 functions, to support the success of qualifying community health center,
25 rural health clinic and tribal health facility primary care residency
26 programs.

27 B. The Arizona area health education system may use up to \$500,000
28 of the monies distributed pursuant to subsection A of this section to
29 support a collaborative of qualifying community health centers', rural
30 health clinics' and tribal health facilities' primary care residency
31 programs.

32 C. For the purposes of this section:

33 1. "Primary care" means family medicine, internal medicine,
34 pediatrics, pediatric internal medicine, psychiatry, obstetrics and
35 gynecology, geriatrics or general surgery.

36 2. "Tribal health facility" means an outpatient health facility
37 that is operated by an Indian tribe and that is authorized to provide
38 services pursuant to the Indian self-determination and education
39 assistance act (P.L. 93-638; 88 Stat. 2203).