

REFERENCE TITLE: military veteran spouses; tuition scholarships

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

## **SB 1409**

Introduced by  
Senators Gowan: Carroll, Shamp; Representatives Carbone, Diaz, Dunn,  
Gillette, Griffin, Hernandez A, Hernandez L, Marshall, Martinez,  
Montenegro, Nguyen

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.