

House Engrossed

tuition waiver; children; veterans; disabilities

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

# HOUSE BILL 2240

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1808, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-1809.03; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO STUDENT TUITION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

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

4 15-1808. Tuition waiver scholarships; eligibility;  
5 definitions

6 A. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the Arizona  
7 peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial  
8 committee, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by the Arizona  
9 department of veterans' services that a person is a child or the spouse of  
10 a peace officer, correctional officer, firefighter, emergency paramedic,  
11 national guard member or member of the United States armed forces who was  
12 a resident of the state of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was  
13 killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line  
14 of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall provide the person who  
15 qualifies under subsection D of this section and who otherwise meets the  
16 qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any  
17 university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents.

18 A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by the  
19 Arizona peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fallen firefighter  
20 memorial committee, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by  
21 the Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is the child or  
22 the spouse of a peace officer, correctional officer, firefighter,  
23 emergency paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States  
24 armed forces who was a resident of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who  
25 was killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the  
26 line of duty while traveling to or from duty, shall provide the person who  
27 qualifies under subsection D of this section and who otherwise meets the  
28 qualifications for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any  
29 community college under the jurisdiction of the district.

30 B. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the Arizona  
31 peace officers memorial board, the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial  
32 committee or the department of veterans' services that a person is a child  
33 or the spouse of a person who meets the requirements prescribed in  
34 subsection C of this section, shall provide the person who qualifies under  
35 subsection D of this section and who otherwise meets the qualifications  
36 for admission with a tuition waiver scholarship at any university under  
37 the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents. A district as defined  
38 in section 15-1401, after verification by the Arizona peace officers  
39 memorial board, the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial committee or the  
40 department of veterans' services that a person is a child or the spouse of  
41 a person who meets the requirements prescribed in subsection C of this  
42 section, shall provide the person who qualifies under subsection D of this  
43 section and who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a  
44 tuition waiver scholarship at any community college under the jurisdiction  
45 of the district. Notwithstanding section 15-1809, if sufficient monies

1 are available, the Arizona board of regents shall distribute surplus  
2 monies that were appropriated to the spouses of military veterans tuition  
3 scholarship fund established by section 15-1809 to each university under  
4 the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents for the costs associated  
5 with the tuition waiver scholarships provided pursuant to this subsection.

6 C. To be eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship under subsection  
7 B of this section, the applicant must be the child or spouse of a person  
8 who meets all of the following criteria:

9 1. Was a veteran of the United States armed forces or was serving  
10 or previously served as a peace officer, a firefighter or a member of the  
11 United States armed forces at the time of the person's death. It is not a  
12 requirement for the purposes of this paragraph that the person was  
13 employed as a peace officer or firefighter or was serving on active duty  
14 as a member of the United States armed forces at the time of the person's  
15 death.

16 2. Was a resident of this state at the time of the person's death.

17 3. Suffered a post-traumatic stress injury in the line of duty.  
18 Documentation that the peace officer or firefighter at any point received  
19 a disability pension under section 38-844 for a post-traumatic stress  
20 injury or benefits under title 38, chapter 5, article 4.2 for a  
21 post-traumatic stress injury is prima facie evidence that the peace  
22 officer or firefighter met the requirements of this paragraph. A  
23 discharge or other document from the United States armed forces showing  
24 that the member or veteran of the United States armed forces was  
25 discharged because of or suffered from a post-traumatic stress injury, or  
26 documentation from the United States department of veterans affairs  
27 showing that the member or veteran suffered from a post-traumatic stress  
28 injury, is prima facie evidence that the member or veteran met the  
29 requirements of this paragraph.

30 4. Died by suicide.

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

39 E. A member of the Arizona national guard who received a purple  
40 heart citation on or after September 11, 2001 or a former member of the  
41 Arizona national guard who was medically discharged from the Arizona  
42 national guard due to an injury or disability suffered during status under  
43 title 10, United States Code, in weekend training status, in annual  
44 training status or in response to a state of emergency declared by the

1 governor is eligible for a tuition waiver scholarship provided for in this  
2 section.

3 F. The Arizona board of regents, after verification by the Arizona  
4 department of veterans' services that a person is a member or former  
5 member of the United States armed forces who received a purple heart  
6 citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was stationed in  
7 Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple heart  
8 citation and whose disability rating determined by the United States  
9 department of veterans affairs is fifty percent or more, shall provide the  
10 person who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition  
11 waiver scholarship at any university under the jurisdiction of the board.  
12 A district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by the  
13 Arizona department of veterans' services that a person is a member or  
14 former member of the United States armed forces who received a purple  
15 heart citation, who was a resident of the state of Arizona or was  
16 stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the purple  
17 heart citation and whose disability rating determined by the United States  
18 department of veterans affairs is fifty percent or more, shall provide the  
19 person who otherwise meets the qualifications for admission with a tuition  
20 waiver scholarship at any community college under the jurisdiction of the  
21 district. A person who is convicted of a class 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 felony is  
22 ineligible for a tuition waiver scholarship as provided in this  
23 subsection.

24 G. IN ADDITION TO THE TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED PURSUANT  
25 TO THIS SECTION, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS MAY PROVIDE A TUITION  
26 SCHOLARSHIP TO A CHILD OR A DEPENDENT OF A MEMBER OR A FORMER MEMBER OF  
27 THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHOSE DISABILITY RATING DETERMINED  
28 BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS THIRTY PERCENT OR  
29 MORE AND WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE OR WAS STATIONED IN THIS STATE AT  
30 THE TIME OF THE INJURY THAT RESULTED IN THE DISABILITY RATING, SUBJECT TO  
31 THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 15-1809.03.

32 ~~G.~~ H. For the purposes of this section:

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

39 2. "Emergency paramedic" means a person who has been trained in an  
40 emergency paramedic training program certified by the director of the  
41 department of health services or in an equivalent training program and who  
42 is certified by the director of the department of health services to  
43 render services pursuant to section 36-2205.

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

4           4. "Peace officer" means a county sheriff, a constable, a marshal,  
5 a police officer of a city or town, an individual who is commissioned by  
6 the department of public safety and a police officer who is appointed by a  
7 community college district governing board or the Arizona board of regents  
8 who received a certificate from the Arizona peace officer standards and  
9 training board, and any other state, federal, tribal, city or county  
10 officer who is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order and make  
11 arrests.

12           Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 14, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
13 is amended by adding section 15-1809.03, to read:

14           15-1809.03. Dependents of military personnel tuition  
15 scholarship fund; eligibility; requirements

16           A. THE DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS  
17 ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. THE ARIZONA BOARD  
18 OF REGENTS SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY  
19 APPROPRIATED AND ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 35-190 RELATING  
20 TO LAPSING OF APPROPRIATIONS. ON NOTICE FROM THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
21 REGENTS, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST AND DIVEST MONIES IN THE FUND AS  
22 PROVIDED BY SECTION 35-313, AND MONIES EARNED FROM INVESTMENT SHALL BE  
23 CREDITED TO THE FUND. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE MONIES, THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
24 REGENTS SHALL USE THE MONIES IN THE FUND TO AWARD TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS ON  
25 A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS ALL OF THE  
26 FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

27           1. IS THE CHILD OR DEPENDENT OF A MEMBER OR A FORMER MEMBER OF THE  
28 ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO BOTH:

29           (a) IS DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS  
30 AFFAIRS TO HAVE A DISABILITY RATING OF AT LEAST THIRTY PERCENT.

31           (b) EITHER:

32           (i) IS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE.

33           (ii) WAS STATIONED IN THIS STATE AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY THAT  
34 RESULTED IN THE DISABILITY RATING.

35           2. PROVIDES TO THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS DOCUMENTATION FROM THE  
36 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES THAT VERIFIES THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MEETS  
37 THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

38           3. IS ENROLLED AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT IN EITHER:

39           (a) A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
40 REGENTS.

41           (b) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-1401.

42           4. COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT  
43 AID BEFORE EACH YEAR IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES A TUITION  
44 SCHOLARSHIP PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

45           5. IS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE.

1           6. HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY.  
2           7. HAS NOT OBTAINED MORE THAN A TOTAL OF SIXTY-FOUR CREDIT HOURS AT  
3 COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THIS STATE.  
4           8. HAS NOT OBTAINED A TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
5 CREDITS, INCLUDING TRANSFER CREDITS, THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF  
6 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AT A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE  
7 JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
8 INITIALLY DECLARED COURSE OF STUDY.  
9           B. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS:  
10           1. MAY NOT AWARD A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION TO ANY  
11 INDIVIDUAL FOR MORE THAN FOUR ACADEMIC YEARS OR EIGHT SEMESTERS.  
12           2. IF THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT MONIES IN THE FUND, MAY NOT AWARD A  
13 TUITION SCHOLARSHIP TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE PURSUANT TO THIS  
14 SECTION.  
15           3. MAY AWARD A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE  
16 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE  
17 INDIVIDUAL'S ACTUAL COST OF IN-STATE TUITION AND FEES MINUS THE AMOUNT OF  
18 ANY FEDERAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS, PUBLIC GRANTS OR OTHER FINANCIAL GIFTS,  
19 GRANTS OR AID THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES FOR THE SAME TERM.  
20           Sec. 3. Appropriation; dependents of military personnel  
21                   tuition scholarship fund  
22           The sum of \$15,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund  
23 in fiscal year 2026-2027 to the dependents of military personnel tuition  
24 scholarship fund established by section 15-1809.03, Arizona Revised  
25 Statutes, as added by this act.