

REFERENCE TITLE: **tuition waiver; children; veterans; disabilities**

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

HB 2240

Introduced by
Representative Blackman

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-1808, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS FOR TUITION PURPOSES.

(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. A
18 district as defined in section 15-1401, after verification by the Arizona
19 peace officers memorial board, by the Arizona fallen firefighter memorial
20 committee, by the adjutant general of the national guard or by the Arizona
21 department of veterans' services that a person is the child or the spouse
22 of a peace officer, correctional officer, firefighter, emergency
23 paramedic, national guard member or member of the United States armed
24 forces who was a resident of Arizona or stationed in Arizona and who was
25 killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line
26 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. THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, AFTER VERIFICATION BY THE ARIZONA
25 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES THAT A PERSON IS A CHILD OR A DEPENDENT
26 OF A MEMBER OR A FORMER MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHOSE
27 DISABILITY RATING DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
28 AFFAIRS IS THIRTY PERCENT OR MORE AND WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE OR
29 WAS STATIONED IN THIS STATE AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY THAT RESULTED IN THE
30 DISABILITY RATING, SHALL PROVIDE THE CHILD OR DEPENDENT WITH A TUITION
31 WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP AT ANY UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA
32 BOARD OF REGENTS. A COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT AS DEFINED IN SECTION
33 15-1401, AFTER VERIFICATION BY THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS'
34 SERVICES THAT A PERSON IS A CHILD OR A DEPENDENT OF A MEMBER OR A FORMER
35 MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHOSE DISABILITY RATING
36 DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS THIRTY
37 PERCENT OR MORE AND WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE OR WAS STATIONED IN
38 THIS STATE AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY THAT RESULTED IN THE DISABILITY
39 RATING, SHALL PROVIDE THE CHILD OR DEPENDENT WITH A TUITION WAIVER
40 SCHOLARSHIP AT ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
41 COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT. A CHILD OR DEPENDENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A
42 TUITION WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP PURSUANT OT THIS SUBSECTION ONLY IF THE CHILD
43 OR DEPENDENT MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- 44 1. IS THIRTY YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.
- 45 2. HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY.

- 1 3. MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OR
2 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
- 3 4. HAS NOT OBTAINED MORE THAN SIXTY-FOUR CREDIT HOURS AT COMMUNITY
4 COLLEGES IN THIS STATE.
- 5 5. HAS NOT OBTAINED A TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
6 CREDITS, INCLUDING ANY TRANSFER CREDITS FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THIS
7 STATE, THAT IS EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED FOR A BACCALAUREATE
8 DEGREE AT A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF
9 REGENTS FOR THE CHILD'S OR DEPENDENT'S INITIALLY DECLARED COURSE OF STUDY.
- 10 ~~G.~~ H. For the purposes of this section:
- 11 1. "Correctional officer" means a person, other than an elected
12 official, who is employed by this state or a county, city or town and who
13 is responsible for the supervision, protection, care, custody or control
14 of inmates in a state, county or municipal correctional institution,
15 including counselors but excluding secretarial, clerical and
16 professionally trained personnel.
- 17 2. "Emergency paramedic" means a person who has been trained in an
18 emergency paramedic training program certified by the director of the
19 department of health services or in an equivalent training program and who
20 is certified by the director of the department of health services to
21 render services pursuant to section 36-2205.
- 22 3. "Firefighter" means a professional firefighter who is a member
23 of a state, federal, tribal, city, county, district or private fire
24 department.
- 25 4. "Peace officer" means a county sheriff, a constable, a marshal,
26 a police officer of a city or town, an individual who is commissioned by
27 the department of public safety and a police officer who is appointed by a
28 community college district governing board or the Arizona board of regents
29 who received a certificate from the Arizona peace officer standards and
30 training board, and any other state, federal, tribal, city or county
31 officer who is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order and make
32 arrests.