

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 37*
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 3/4/15

Short Title: Waive Tuition/Fallen Officer Was Guardian.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 5, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE TUITION WAIVER FOR SURVIVORS OF LAW
3 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, OR RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS
4 AND CERTAIN OTHERS ALSO APPLIES TO CHILDREN WHOSE LEGAL
5 GUARDIANS OR LEGAL CUSTODIANS ARE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS,
6 FIREFIGHTERS, OR RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115B-1(6) reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 115B-1. Definitions.**

10 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

11 ...
12 (6) Survivor. – Any person whose ~~parent-parent~~, legal guardian, legal custodian,
13 or spouse: (i) was a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a volunteer
14 firefighter, or a rescue squad worker, (ii) was killed while in active service
15 or training for active service or died as a result of a service-connected
16 disability, and (iii) at the time of active service or training was a North
17 Carolina resident. The term does not include the widow or widower of a law
18 enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad
19 worker if the widow or widower has remarried."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115B-2(a) reads as rewritten:

21 "(a) The constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and the community
22 colleges as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2) shall permit the following persons to attend classes for
23 credit or noncredit purposes without the required payment of tuition:

- 24 (1) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 8.11(a), effective July 1, 2009.
25 (2) Any person who is the survivor of a law enforcement officer, firefighter,
26 volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker killed as a direct result of a
27 traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
28 (3) The spouse of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or
29 rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct
30 result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
31 (4) Any child, if the child is at least 17 years old but not yet 24 years old, whose
32 ~~parent-parent~~, legal guardian, or legal custodian is a law enforcement officer,
33 firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently
34 and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the
35 line of duty. However, a child's eligibility for a waiver of tuition under this
36 Chapter shall not exceed: (i) 54 months, if the child is seeking a



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1 baccalaureate degree, or (ii) if the child is not seeking a baccalaureate
2 degree, the number of months required to complete the educational program
3 to which the child is applying.

- 4 (5) Any child, if the child (i) is at least 17 years old but not yet 24 years old, (ii)
5 is a ward of North Carolina or was a ward of the State at the time the child
6 reached the age of 18, (iii) is a resident of the State; and (iv) is eligible for
7 services under the Chaffee Education and Training Vouchers Program; but
8 the waiver shall only be to the extent that there is any tuition still payable
9 after receipt of other financial aid received by the student.
- 10 (6) Any child enrolled in a regional school established pursuant to Part 10 of
11 Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes who enrolls in classes at
12 a constituent institution or community college which has a written agreement
13 with the regional school."

14 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115B-5(b) reads as rewritten:

15 "(b) The officials of the institutions charged with administration of this Chapter shall
16 require the following proof to insure that a person applying to the institution and who requests a
17 tuition waiver under ~~G.S. 115B-2(2)~~, G.S. 115B-2(a)(2), (3), or (4) is eligible for the benefits
18 provided by this Chapter.

- 19 (1) The parent-child relationship shall be verified by a birth certificate, legal
20 adoption papers, or other documentary evidence deemed appropriate by the
21 institution.
- 22 (1a) The legal guardian-child relationship shall be verified by an order from a
23 court proceeding that established the legal guardianship.
- 24 (1b) The legal custodian-child relationship shall be verified by an order from a
25 court proceeding that established the legal custodianship.
- 26 (2) The marital relationship shall be verified by a marriage certificate or other
27 documentary evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.
- 28 (3) The cause of death of the law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer
29 firefighter, or rescue squad worker shall be verified by certification from the
30 records of the Department of State Treasurer, the appropriate city or county
31 law enforcement agency that employed the deceased, the administrative
32 agency for the fire department or fire protection district recognized for
33 funding under the Department of State Auditor, or the administrative agency
34 having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities.
- 35 (4) The permanent and total disability shall be verified by documentation
36 deemed necessary by the institution from the North Carolina Industrial
37 Commission."

38 **SECTION 3.5.** G.S. 115B-5(c) reads as rewritten:

39 "(c) The officials of the institutions charged with administration of this Chapter may
40 require proof to verify that a person applying to the institution under ~~G.S. 115B-2(5)~~
41 G.S. 115B-2(a)(5) is eligible for the benefits provided by this Chapter."

42 **SECTION 3.7.** G.S. 115B-5.1 reads as rewritten:

43 "**§ 115B-5.1. Student to be credited for scholarship value.**

44 If a person obtains a tuition waiver under ~~G.S. 115B-2(2)~~, G.S. 115B-2(a)(2), (3), or (4) and
45 the person also receives a cash scholarship paid or payable to the institution, from whatever
46 source, the amount of the scholarship shall be applied to the credit of the person in the payment
47 of incidental expenses of the person's attendance at the institution, and any balance, if the terms
48 of the scholarship permit, shall be returned to the student."

49 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to the 2015 fall
50 academic semester and each subsequent semester.