

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 37*

Short Title: Waive Tuition/Fallen Officer Was Guardian. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Smith, Apodaca (Primary Sponsors); Daniel, D. Davis, Ford, Hise, Newton, Pate, Rabin, and Van Duyn.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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 ARE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, OR RESCUE
6 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, or spouse: (i)
13 was a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a volunteer firefighter, or a
14 rescue squad worker, (ii) was killed while in active service or training for
15 active service or died as a result of a service-connected disability, and (iii) at
16 the time of active service or training was a North Carolina resident. The term
17 does not include the widow or widower of a law enforcement officer,
18 firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad worker if the widow or
19 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- 24 (1) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 8.11(a), effective July 1, 2009.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 or legal guardian is a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer
33 firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled
34 as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. However,
35 a child's eligibility for a waiver of tuition under this Chapter shall not



- 1 exceed: (i) 54 months, if the child is seeking a baccalaureate degree, or (ii) if
2 the child is not seeking a baccalaureate degree, the number of months
3 required to complete the educational program 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), (3), or (4) is eligible for the benefits provided by this
18 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 documentary
23 evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.
24 (2) The marital relationship shall be verified by a marriage certificate or other
25 documentary evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.
26 (3) The cause of death of the law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer
27 firefighter, or rescue squad worker shall be verified by certification from the
28 records of the Department of State Treasurer, the appropriate city or county
29 law enforcement agency that employed the deceased, the administrative
30 agency for the fire department or fire protection district recognized for
31 funding under the Department of State Auditor, or the administrative agency
32 having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all counties and cities.
33 (4) The permanent and total disability shall be verified by documentation
34 deemed necessary by the institution from the North Carolina Industrial
35 Commission."

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