

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE BILL 834

Short Title: Tuition Waivers for SPA Employees. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Wellons; Carpenter, Carter, Cunningham, Dannelly, Garrou, Harris, Lucas, Metcalf, Miller, Thomas, and Warren.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

April 3, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TUITION WAIVERS UP TO A BACHELORS DEGREE
FOR STATE EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO THE STATE PERSONNEL ACT
ATTENDING STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115B-2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115B-2. Tuition waiver authorized.

State-supported institutions of higher education, community colleges, industrial education centers and technical institutes, shall permit the following persons to attend classes for credit or noncredit purposes without the required payment of tuition; provided, however, that such persons meet admission and other standards deemed appropriate by the educational institution, and provided further that such persons shall be accepted by the constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina only on a spaces-available basis:

- (1) Legal residents of North Carolina who have attained the age of 65.
- (2) Any person who is the survivor of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker killed as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
- (3) The spouse of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
- (4) Any child, if the child is at least 17 years old but not yet 23 years old, whose parent is a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. However, a child's eligibility for a waiver of tuition under this

1 Chapter shall not exceed: (i) 48 months, if the child is seeking a
2 baccalaureate degree, or (ii) if the child is not seeking a baccalaureate
3 degree, the number of months required to complete the educational
4 program to which the child is applying.

5 (5) Any full-time State employee subject to Chapter 126 of the General
6 Statutes, the State Personnel Act."

7 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115B-5(b) reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 115B-5. Proof of eligibility.**

9 (b) The officials of the institutions charged with administration of this Chapter
10 shall require the following proof to insure that a person applying to the institution and
11 who requests a tuition waiver under G.S. 115B-2(2), (3), ~~or (4)-(4)~~, or (5) is eligible for
12 the benefits provided by this Chapter.

13 (1) The parent-child relationship shall be verified by a birth certificate,
14 legal adoption papers, or other documentary evidence deemed
15 appropriate by the institution.

16 (2) The marital relationship shall be verified by a marriage certificate or
17 other documentary evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.

18 (3) The cause of death of the law enforcement officer, firefighter,
19 volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker shall be verified by
20 certification from the records of the Department of State Treasurer, the
21 appropriate city or county law enforcement agency that employed the
22 deceased, the administrative agency for the fire department or fire
23 protection district recognized for funding under the Department of
24 State Auditor, or the administrative agency having jurisdiction over
25 any paid firefighters of all counties and cities.

26 (4) The permanent and total disability shall be verified by documentation
27 deemed necessary by the institution from the North Carolina Industrial
28 Commission."

29 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.