

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 19  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/10/15

Short Title: Waive Tuition/Fallen Officer Was Guardian.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

January 29, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE TUITION WAIVER FOR SURVIVORS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, OR RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS AND CERTAIN OTHERS ALSO APPLIES TO CHILDREN WHOSE LEGAL GUARDIANS OR LEGAL CUSTODIANS ARE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, OR RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"§ 115B-1. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

...

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

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

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

(1) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 8.11(a), effective July 1, 2009.

(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 24 years old, whose ~~parent-parent~~, legal guardian, or legal custodian 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 Chapter shall not exceed: (i) 54 months, if the child is seeking a



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.