

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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SENATE BILL 376*

Short Title: NC Patriot Star Family Scholarship/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Brown, Perry, and Sanderson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 28, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA PATRIOT STAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
ACT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Establishment of the Scholarship Program. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to be provided as a grant to the Patriot Foundation for the purpose of establishing the North Carolina Patriot Star Family Scholarship Program (Program). The Program shall provide scholarships to eligible children and eligible spouses of certain veterans and currently serving members of the Armed Forces to attend eligible postsecondary institutions in accordance with the requirements of this act.

SECTION 2. Definitions. – For the purposes of this act, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Armed Forces. – A component of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including their reserve components.
- (2) Eligible child or eligible children. – Any person (i) who is attending or has been accepted to enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution, (ii) who is a legal resident of North Carolina when scholarship documentation is completed, provided that if a child is claimed as a dependent by the child's parent, residency may be established based on a parent meeting sub-sub-subdivision 4. of sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision, (iii) has complied with the requirements of the Selective Service System, if applicable, and (iv) whose parent is a veteran or a currently serving member of the Armed Forces that meets the following:
 - a. Meets one of the following residency conditions:
 1. Is a resident of North Carolina at the time of scholarship documentation completion.
 2. Was a resident of North Carolina at the time of entrance into service in the Armed Forces.
 3. Was permanently stationed in North Carolina at the time of his or her death.
 4. Is an active duty service member permanently stationed in North Carolina at the time of documentation completion.
 - b. Meets one of the following service conditions:



- 1 1. Was a member of the Armed Forces who was killed in action
2 or in the line of duty, or died of wounds or other causes not due
3 to the service member's willful misconduct during a period of
4 war or national emergency.
 - 5 2. Was a member of the Armed Forces who died of
6 service-connected injuries, wounds, illness, or other causes
7 incurred or aggravated while a member of the Armed Forces
8 during a period of war or national emergency. Standard
9 documentation of the parent's death, wounds, injury, or illness
10 must be supplied by a scholarship recipient at the time of
11 scholarship request.
 - 12 3. Is a veteran of the Armed Forces who incurred traumatic
13 injuries or wounds or sustained a major illness while a member
14 of the Armed Forces during a period of war or national
15 emergency and is receiving compensation for a wartime
16 service-connected disability of at least fifty percent (50%) as
17 rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - 18 4. Is a current member of the Armed Forces who incurred
19 traumatic injuries or wounds or sustained a major illness while
20 a member of the Armed Forces during a period of war or
21 national emergency. The parent's traumatic wounds, injury, or
22 major illness must be documented by the U.S. Department of
23 Defense.
- 24 (3) Eligible spouse. – Any person (i) who is attending or has been accepted to
25 enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution, (ii) who is a legal resident of
26 North Carolina when scholarship documentation is completed, (iii) has
27 complied with the requirements of the Selective Service System, if applicable,
28 and (iv) whose spouse was a member of the Armed Forces who was killed in
29 action or the line of duty, or died of wounds or other causes not due to the
30 service member's willful misconduct during a period of war or national
31 emergency.
- 32 (4) Eligible postsecondary institution. – A school that is any of the following:
- 33 a. A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.
 - 34 b. A community college under the jurisdiction of the State Board of
35 Community Colleges.
 - 36 c. A private educational institution as defined in G.S. 143B-1224.
 - 37 d. An accredited, private vocational institution.
- 38 (5) Veteran. – An individual who has served and is no longer serving in the Armed
39 Forces of the United States. For the purposes of this act, the veteran must have
40 separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions or whose death
41 or disability of at least fifty percent (50%) or more was incurred as a direct
42 result of service in the line of duty.

43 **SECTION 3.** Administration; Awards. – Within the funds made available by this
44 act, the Patriot Foundation shall administer the North Carolina Patriot Star Family Scholarship
45 Program and award scholarships to eligible children and eligible spouses in accordance with this
46 act. In administering the Program, the Patriot Foundation shall be responsible for program
47 oversight insuring compliance with the provisions of this act.

48 The Patriot Foundation shall, at a minimum, establish criteria and procedures related
49 to scholarship documentation completion, the amount of individual scholarships, the permissible
50 uses of scholarship funds, the period of eligibility for award of a scholarship, the conditions for
51 a revocation of a scholarship, and any other procedures it deems necessary for administration of

1 the Program. A scholarship awarded to an eligible child or eligible spouse shall not exceed the
2 cost of attendance at the eligible postsecondary institution.

3 If an eligible child or eligible spouse receives a scholarship or other grant covering
4 the cost of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution for which the scholarship is
5 awarded, then the amount of a scholarship awarded under this act shall be reduced so that the
6 sum of all grants and scholarships covering the cost of attendance received by the eligible child
7 does not exceed the cost of attendance for the institution. For the purposes of this section, cost of
8 attendance shall be deemed to include monies for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment
9 required for study at an eligible postsecondary institution, as well as room and board as long as
10 the scholarship recipient is enrolled as at least a half-time student at the institution. Off-campus
11 housing costs for room and board are also included to the extent the eligible postsecondary
12 institution includes it in its cost of attendance.

13 **SECTION 4.** Reporting. – The Patriot Foundation shall submit a report by April 1
14 of each year in which the Patriot Foundation spends State funds made available pursuant to this
15 act to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on
16 the activities described by this act and the use of the State funds.

17 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.