

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH10176-LH-86 (02/08)

Short Title: Military Tuition/Dependent Children.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Sutton.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THEIR DEPENDENTS SHALL QUALIFY FOR THE IN-STATE TUITION RATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 14 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

§ 116-143.7. Tuition of employees of the Department of Defense and their dependents.

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) "Abode" means the place where a person actually lives, whether temporarily or permanently; "abide" means to live in a given place.

(2) "Employee" means a person who is employed by the United States Department of Defense.

(b) Employee to Be Charged In-State Tuition. – Any employee qualifying for admission to an institution of higher education as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3) but not qualifying as a resident for tuition purposes under G.S. 116-143.1 shall be charged the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees for enrollment while the employee is abiding in this State incident to employment with the Department of Defense in this State. In the event the employee is reassigned by the Department of Defense outside of North Carolina or retires, the employee shall continue to be eligible for the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees so long as the employee is continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the employee was enrolled at the time the employee is reassigned. In the event the employee retires from the Department of Defense, the retired employee shall continue to be eligible for the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees so long as he or she establishes residency in North Carolina within 30 days after the date of retirement and is

1 continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the employee was
2 enrolled at the time the employee retired.

3 (c) Dependent to Be Charged In-State Tuition. – Any dependent relative of an
4 employee who is abiding in this State incident to employment by the Department of
5 Defense while sharing the abode of the employee shall be eligible to be charged the
6 in-State tuition rate if the dependent relative qualifies for admission to an institution of
7 higher education as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3). The dependent relative shall
8 comply with the requirements of the Selective Service System, if applicable, in order to
9 be accorded this benefit. In the event the employee is reassigned by the Department of
10 Defense outside of North Carolina or retires, the dependent relative shall continue to be
11 eligible for the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees so long as the
12 dependent relative is continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the
13 dependent relative was enrolled at the time the employee is reassigned or retires. In the
14 event the employee retires, the dependent relative shall continue to be eligible for the
15 in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees so long as the dependent relative
16 establishes residency within North Carolina within 30 days after the date of retirement
17 and is continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the dependent
18 relative was enrolled at the time the employee retired.

19 (d) The person applying for the benefit of this section has the burden of proving
20 entitlement to the benefit.

21 (e) A person charged less than the out-of-state tuition rate solely by reason of this
22 section shall not, during the period of receiving that benefit, qualify for or be the basis
23 of conferring the benefit of G.S. 116-143.1(g), (h), (i), (j), (k), or (l)."

24 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115D-39(a) reads as rewritten:

25 "(a) The State Board of Community Colleges shall fix and regulate all tuition and
26 fees charged to students for applying to or attending any institution pursuant to this
27 Chapter.

28 The receipts from all student tuition and fees, other than student activity fees, shall
29 be State funds and shall be deposited as provided by regulations of the State Board of
30 Community Colleges.

31 The legal resident limitation with respect to tuition, set forth in ~~G.S. 116-143.1 and~~
32 ~~G.S. 116-143.3, G.S. 116-143.1, 116-143.3, and 116-143.7~~ shall apply to students
33 attending institutions operating pursuant to this Chapter; provided, however, that when
34 an employer other than the armed services, as that term is defined in G.S. 116-143.3 or
35 the United States Department of Defense under G.S. 116-143.7, pays tuition for an
36 employee to attend an institution operating pursuant to this Chapter and when the
37 employee works at a North Carolina business location, the employer shall be charged
38 the in-State tuition rate; provided further, however, a community college may charge
39 in-State tuition to up to one percent (1%) of its out-of-state students, rounded up to the
40 next whole number, to accommodate the families transferred by business, the families
41 transferred by industry, or the civilian families transferred by the military or the
42 Department of Defense, consistent with the provisions of G.S. 116-143.3 or
43 G.S. 116-143.7, into the State. Notwithstanding these requirements, a refugee who
44 lawfully entered the United States and who is living in this State shall be deemed to

1 qualify as a domiciliary of this State under G.S. 116-143.1(a)(1) and as a State resident
2 for community college tuition purposes as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(2). Also, a
3 nonresident of the United States who has resided in North Carolina for a 12-month
4 qualifying period and has filed an immigrant petition with the United States
5 Immigration and Naturalization Service shall be considered a State resident for
6 community college tuition purposes."

7 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 116-21.3 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 "(c1) Any employee, as defined in G.S. 116-143.7(a), abiding in this State incident
9 to employment with the United States Department of Defense, who does not qualify as a
10 resident for tuition purposes, as defined under G.S. 116-143.1, is eligible for a
11 legislative tuition grant under this section if the employee is enrolled as a full-time
12 undergraduate student or as a licensure student. The employee's legislative tuition grant
13 shall not exceed the cost of tuition less any tuition assistance paid by the employee's
14 employer."

15 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 116-22(2) reads as rewritten:

16 "(2) "Student" shall mean a person enrolled in and attending an institution
17 located in the State who qualifies as a resident of North Carolina in
18 accordance with definitions of residency that may from time to time be
19 adopted by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina
20 and published in the residency manual of said Board; and a person
21 who has not received a bachelor's degree, or qualified therefore, and
22 who is otherwise classified as an undergraduate under such regulations
23 as the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina may
24 promulgate. The enrollment figures required by G.S. 116-19 through
25 116-22 shall be the number of full-time equivalent students as
26 computed under regulations prescribed by the Board of Governors of
27 the University of North Carolina. Qualification for in-State tuition
28 under G.S. 116-143.3 and G.S. 116-143.7 makes a person a "student"
29 as defined in this subdivision."

30 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 116-43.5(a)(3) reads as rewritten:

31 "(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

32 ...

33 (3) "Student" means a person enrolled in and attending an institution
34 located in the State (i) who qualifies as a resident of North Carolina in
35 accordance with definitions of residency that may from time to time be
36 adopted by the Board of Governors of The University of North
37 Carolina and published in the residency manual of the Board, and (ii)
38 who has not received a bachelors degree, or qualified therefor, and
39 who is otherwise classified as an undergraduate under such regulations
40 as the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina may
41 promulgate. Qualification for in-State tuition under G.S. 116-143.3
42 and G.S. 116-143.7 makes a person a "student" as defined in this
43 subdivision."

44 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 116-143.4 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 116-143.4. Admissions status of persons charged in-State tuition.**

2 A person eligible for the in-State tuition rate pursuant to this Article shall be
3 considered an in-State applicant for the purpose of admission; provided that, a person
4 eligible for in-State tuition pursuant to G.S. 116-143.3(c) or G.S. 116-143.7(c) shall be
5 considered an in-State applicant for the purpose of admission only if at the time of
6 seeking admission ~~he~~ the person is enrolled in a high school located in North Carolina
7 or enrolled in a general education development (GED) program in an institution located
8 in this State."

9 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 116-235(b)(1) reads as rewritten:

10 "(b) Students. –

11 (1) Admission of Students. – The School shall admit students in
12 accordance with criteria, standards, and procedures established by the
13 Board of Trustees. To be eligible to be considered for admission, an
14 applicant must be ~~either~~ (i) a legal resident of the State, as defined by
15 G.S. 116-143.1(a)(1), or ~~(ii) a student whose parent is an active duty~~
16 ~~member of the armed services, as defined by G.S. 116-143.3(a)(2),~~
17 ~~who is abiding in this State incident to active military duty at the time~~
18 ~~the application is submitted, provided the student shares the abode of~~
19 ~~that parent or~~ (iii) a student whose parent is an employee, as defined
20 by G.S. 116-143.7(a), who is abiding in this State incident to
21 employment by the United States Department of Defense at the time
22 the application is submitted, provided the student shares the abode of
23 the employee; eligibility to remain enrolled in the School shall
24 terminate at the end of any school year during which a student
25 becomes a nonresident of the State. The Board of Trustees shall
26 ensure, insofar as possible without jeopardizing admission standards,
27 that an equal number of qualified rising high school juniors is admitted
28 to the program and to the residential summer institutes in science and
29 mathematics from each of North Carolina's congressional districts. In
30 no event shall the differences in the number of rising high school
31 juniors offered admission to the program from each of North
32 Carolina's congressional districts be more than two and one-half
33 percentage points from the average number per district who are offered
34 admission."

35 **SECTION 8.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007, and applies to the
36 2007-2008 academic year.