



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session

House: MAPS DP 8-7-0-0 | APPROP DP 10-5-0-0

HB 2420: law enforcement; families; tuition scholarships
Sponsor: Representative Gress, LD 4
House Engrossed

Overview

Establishes the Spouses and Dependents of Law Enforcement Officers Tuition Scholarship Fund (Fund) and appropriates \$10,000,000 from the State General Fund (GF) to the Fund.

History

Pursuant to [A.R.S. § 15-1808](#), the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and community college districts are required to grant tuition waivers to the children and spouses of peace officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency paramedics, national guardsmen and qualifying United States armed forces personnel who were killed in the line of duty or who died from injuries suffered in the line of duty while traveling to or from duty.

Provisions

1. Establishes the Fund, to be administered by ABOR. (Sec. 1)
2. Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the GF to the Fund in FY 2024. (Sec. 2)
3. States that Fund monies are subject to legislative appropriation and exempt from lapsing. (Sec. 1)
4. Makes eligible for the scholarship: a) the spouse of a law enforcement officer; and b) dependents of a law enforcement officer who are under 27 years old. (Sec. 1)
5. Instructs ABOR to distribute Fund monies to eligible individuals as scholarships for:
 - a) universities under the jurisdiction of ABOR (public universities);
 - b) community colleges;
 - c) career technical education district programs (CTEDs); or
 - d) private postsecondary institutions in Arizona (private universities). (Sec. 1)
6. Specifies, for a student enrolled in a public university, community college or CTED, the scholarship amount as equal to tuition and mandatory fees less any other gifts or aid received. (Sec. 1)
7. Specifies, for a student enrolled in a private university, that the scholarship amount may not exceed the remainder of the average in-state tuition and fees charged by state universities minus other gifts and aid awarded to that person. (Sec. 1)
8. Directs ABOR to verify that scholarship applicants meet the specified qualifications. (Sec. 1)
9. Outlines that the scholarship:
 - a) is available for no more than four academic years or eight semesters per person;
 - b) may only be used for a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, CTED certificate, CTED license or private vocational program; and

<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 105 (45 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 108 (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (40 votes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Note
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- c) may only be used to pay tuition and mandatory fees at a public university, community college, CTED or private university. (Sec. 1)
- 10. Asserts that scholarships are awarded on a first-come first-serve basis. (Sec. 1)
- 11. Permits ABOR to use a copy of an officer's commission card and a current employment verification letter to establish if a person is a law enforcement officer. (Sec. 1)
- 12. Instructs ABOR to report various statistics, relating to the scholarship and its recipients, to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting. (Sec. 1)
- 13. Defines *law enforcement officer*. (Sec. 1)
- 14. Contains an intent clause. (Sec. 2)