



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2089

military veterans; surviving spouses; scholarships

Purpose

Extends eligibility for a tuition scholarship from the Spouses of Military Veterans Tuition Scholarship Fund (Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund) to a person who is an honorably discharged veteran's surviving spouse who has not remarried.

Background

Subject to available monies, the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) must use Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund monies to award a tuition scholarship to any person who: 1) enrolls in an Arizona public university or community college; 2) is the spouse of an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces; 3) qualifies for in-state student status; 4) is an Arizona resident at the time of applying for and while receiving a tuition scholarship; 5) annually submits the Free Application For Federal Student Aid; 6) meets satisfactory academic progress standards established by the university or community college; and 7) completes a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 release form to allow for the release of information needed to determine continued eligibility. An applicant must submit proof of the applicant's spouse's honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions and the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services must verify that the applicant is the spouse of an honorably discharged veteran.

ABOR must award Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis in an amount equal to the tuition and mandatory fees charged by the university or community college, reduced by any other financial aid. A scholarship is limited to up to eight semesters and must be used only for tuition and mandatory fees at a public university or community college for a certificate, an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree ([A.R.S. § 15-1809](#)).

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) fiscal note estimates that additional scholarships to surviving spouses may generate a demand of \$180,000 on the Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund. The JLBC states that the Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund annually receives \$10 million from the state General Fund and that ABOR expects the current funding level to cover the costs of surviving spouse scholarships ([JLBC fiscal note](#)).

Provisions

1. Extends eligibility for a Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund scholarship to a person who is the surviving spouse, who has not remarried, of an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and otherwise meets the prescribed requirements.
2. Makes technical and conforming changes.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

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House Action

MAPS	1/30/23	DP	15-0-0-0
3 rd Read	2/21/23		60-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research

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