



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

AMENDED
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 an honorably discharged veteran's spouse in an approved program offered by a degree-granting private postsecondary educational institution (degree-granting private institution) and to an honorably discharged veteran's surviving spouse.

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 H.B. 2089, as introduced, may generate a demand of \$180,000 for scholarships to surviving spouses 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 the following, if the person is otherwise eligible:
 - a) a person enrolled in a program that is offered by a degree-granting institution and approved by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services for GI Bill educational assistance; and
 - b) the surviving spouse, who has not remarried, of an honorably discharged veteran.

2. Caps a Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund scholarship to a student enrolled in a degree-granting private institution at the remainder of the average in-state tuition and fees charged by public universities, reduced by any other financial aid.
3. Allows a Spouses of Veterans Tuition Fund scholarship to be used for tuition and mandatory fees at a degree-granting private institution.
4. Makes technical and conforming changes.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by the Military Affairs, Public Safety and Border Security Committee

1. Extends eligibility for a tuition scholarship to a person enrolled in an approved program offered by a degree-granting private institution.
2. Caps a tuition scholarship provided to a student enrolled in a degree-granting private institution.
3. Makes technical and conforming changes.

House Action

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

Senate Action

MAPS 3/29/23 DPA 6-1-0
APPROP 4/4/23 DP 0-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research
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LB/KT/sr