

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 737**

Introduced by Lindstrom, 18.

Read first time January 03, 2018

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to first responders; to adopt the First
- 2 Responder Education Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the First Responder Education Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the First Responder Education Act:

4           (1) Associate degree program means a degree program at a community  
5 college, state college, or state university which typically requires  
6 completion of an organized program of study of at least sixty semester  
7 credit hours or an equivalent that can be shown to accomplish the same  
8 goal. Associate degree program does not include a baccalaureate degree  
9 program;

10          (2) Baccalaureate degree program means a degree program at a  
11 community college, state college, or state university which typically  
12 requires completion of an organized program of study of at least one  
13 hundred twenty semester credit hours or an equivalent that can be shown  
14 to accomplish the same goal;

15          (3) Community college means a public postsecondary educational  
16 institution which is part of the community college system and includes  
17 all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of  
18 Nebraska;

19          (4) First responder means a volunteer or paid firefighter or a  
20 volunteer or paid individual licensed under a licensure classification in  
21 subdivision (1) of section 38-1217 who provides medical care in order to  
22 prevent loss of life or an aggravation of a physiological or  
23 psychological illness or injury;

24          (5) Response agency means a fire department in a municipality or an  
25 out-of-hospital emergency care provider;

26          (6) State college means a public postsecondary educational  
27 institution which is part of the Nebraska state college system and  
28 includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the  
29 State of Nebraska;

30          (7) State university means a public postsecondary educational  
31 institution which is part of the University of Nebraska and includes all

1 branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of  
2 Nebraska; and

3 (8) Tuition means the charges and cost of tuition as set by the  
4 governing body of a state university, state college, or community  
5 college.

6 Sec. 3. (1) A first responder shall be entitled to a waiver of  
7 thirty percent of the resident tuition charges of any state university,  
8 state college, or community college if the first responder:

9 (a) Maintains satisfactory performance with his or her response  
10 agency;

11 (b) Meets all admission requirements of the state university, state  
12 college, or community college; and

13 (c) Pursues studies leading to a degree that relates to a career in  
14 fire protection or emergency management from an associate degree program  
15 or a baccalaureate degree program.

16 The first responder may receive the tuition waiver for up to five  
17 years if he or she otherwise continues to be eligible for participation.

18 (2) The state university, state college, or community college shall  
19 waive thirty percent of the first responder's tuition remaining due after  
20 subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and state scholarships  
21 and grants for an eligible first responder during the time the first  
22 responder is enrolled. To remain eligible, the first responder must  
23 comply with all requirements of the institution for continued attendance  
24 and award of an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree.

25 (3) An application for the tuition waiver shall include a  
26 verification of the first responder's satisfactory performance as a first  
27 responder. It shall be the responsibility of the first responder to  
28 obtain a certificate of verification from his or her superior attesting  
29 to such first responder's satisfactory performance. The first responder  
30 shall include the certificate of verification when applying to the state  
31 university, state college, or community college in order to obtain

1 tuition waiver upon initial enrollment.

2 (4) Within forty-five days after receipt of a completed application,  
3 the state university, state college, or community college shall send  
4 written notice of the first responder's eligibility or ineligibility for  
5 the tuition waiver. If the first responder is determined not to be  
6 eligible for the tuition waiver, the notice shall include the reason or  
7 reasons for such determination and an indication that an appeal of the  
8 determination may be made pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

9 Sec. 4. Each state university, state college, or community college  
10 shall adopt and promulgate the procedures, rules, and regulations  
11 necessary to carry out the First Responder Education Act.