



Richard Bloedel

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 740

123rd General Assembly
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Gardner, Corbin, Mead, Jones, Amstutz, Barrett, Boyd, Carey, Coughlin, Damschroder, Evans, Hoops, Kilbane, Krebs, Metelsky, Metzger, D. Miller, R. Miller, Mottley, Netzley, O'Brien, Ogg, Perry, Peterson, Roberts, Stapleton, Sullivan, Vesper, Wilson, Mettler, Tiberi, Willamowski, Schuler, Terwilleger, A. Core, Buchy, Brading, Myers, Taylor, Cates, Callender, Ford, Widener, Womer Benjamin, Roman, Hollister, Sykes, Clancy, DePiero, Salerno, Olman, Calvert, Hughes, Austria, Krupinski, Gooding, Redfern, Flannery, Patton, Young, Hood, Healy, Smith, Britton, Allen, Bender, Stevens, Grendell, Sutton

BILL SUMMARY

- Expands a state program under which college tuition and fees are waived for children and spouses of Ohio law enforcement and fire fighting personnel who were killed in the line of duty, to add children and spouses of persons who held a law enforcement or fire fighting position in another state and were killed in the line of duty (provided the child or spouse is a resident of Ohio when participating in the program).

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Existing tuition waiver program

Current law provides for a higher education tuition and fee waiver program for children and spouses of Ohio law enforcement and fire fighting personnel who are killed in the line of duty. To be eligible for the program, the spouse or child must be a resident of Ohio. A child also must be under 26 years of age, except that a child who is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. armed services is eligible until turning 30. A former spouse who was divorced or legally separated from the deceased person is eligible if he or she is the court-ordered custodial parent of a minor child of the marriage.

Under the program, an eligible child or spouse is not required to pay tuition or student fees for up to four academic years of undergraduate education at a state

university or college, university branch, community college, state community college, or technical college.

The program also can provide benefits to eligible children and spouses who attend a private, nonprofit college or university that has been certified to confer degrees by the Ohio Board of Regents, a registered proprietary school, or a licensed barber or cosmetology school. If such an institution chooses to participate in the program, it reduces its tuition and student fees for the eligible child or spouse by an amount indicated by the Board of Regents and then is reimbursed that amount by the Board. Reimbursements are paid for up to four years of undergraduate education. (The program does not reimburse the public institutions that collect no tuition or fees from eligible children and spouses.)

Law enforcement personnel covered by the program are police officers; members of the Highway Patrol; sheriffs and deputy sheriffs; marshals and deputy marshals; township police constables; state university law enforcement officers; Department of Public Safety food stamp and liquor control enforcement agents; Department of Natural Resources forest, preserve, wildlife, park, watercraft, and law enforcement staff officers; Ohio Veterans' Home police officers; members of a metropolitan housing authority police force; members of a regional transit authority police force; conservancy district and park employees designated as having the powers of police officers; and port authority special police officers. References to fire fighters include volunteer fire fighters.

Expansion of the program

The bill provides that the reduced or waived tuition and fee benefits also are available to children and spouses of persons who held an equivalent law enforcement or fire fighting position in another state and were killed in the line of duty. The child or spouse must meet the existing program's requirements regarding age and residency in Ohio. Divorced or separated spouses are eligible under the same conditions as for the existing program.

The bill uses the term "public service officer" to refer to all of the law enforcement and fire fighting personnel covered by the program.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	07-11-00	p. 2197
Reported, H. Finance and Appropriations	09-19-00	pp. 2258-2259
Passed House	09-20-00	pp. 2272-2273

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