



Ralph D. Clark

*Bill Analysis*  
Legislative Service Commission

## **H.B. 273**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Ujvagi, Allen, Beatty, Bocchieri, Book, Brown, Carano, Cassell, DeGeeter, Domenick, Driehaus, C. Evans, Fende, Hartnett, Harwood, Key, Koziura, Mason, McGregor, Miller, Mitchell, Otterman, Perry, Redfern, D. Stewart, Strahorn, Sykes, Williams, Woodard, Yuko**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Provides for college tuition and fee waivers and reductions for the spouse or the qualified former spouse of a member of the United States Armed Services killed in the line of duty while serving in a combat zone after May 7, 1975.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Tuition waiver**

(R.C. 3333.26)

#### **Current law**

Current law provides that state-supported institutions of higher education must waive tuition and student fees for up to four academic years of undergraduate education to a student they admit that is: (1) an Ohio resident who is under 26 years of age, or under 30 years of age if honorably discharged from the United States Armed Services, and who is the child of a public service officer killed in the line of duty or of a member of the United States Armed Services killed in the line of duty during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or (2) an Ohio resident who is the spouse or qualified former spouse of a public service officer killed in the line of duty.<sup>1</sup> Private institutions of higher education<sup>2</sup> may

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<sup>1</sup> "Operation Enduring Freedom" means that period of conflict that began October 7, 2001, and ends on a date declared by the President of the United States or Congress.

"Operation Iraqi Freedom" means that period of conflict that began March 20, 2003, and ends on a date declared by the President of the United States or Congress.

reduce their tuition and fees for the persons described above that they admit by an amount indicated by the Ohio Board of Regents. Any private institution that makes such a reduction is eligible to receive a grant in that amount from the board.

Current law defines "qualified former spouse" to mean the former spouse of a public service officer who is the custodial parent of a minor child of that marriage pursuant to an order allocating parental rights and responsibilities for care of the child.

### **The bill**

The bill makes the state-supported institution of higher education tuition and fee waiver and the private institution tuition and fee reduction apply to a spouse or a qualified former spouse of a member of the United States Armed Services killed in the line of duty while serving in a combat zone after May 7, 1975. The bill defines "combat zone" to mean an area which the President of the United States by executive order designates as an area in which armed forces of the United States are or have engaged in combat. The bill alters the definition of "qualified former spouse" to include the former spouse of a United States Armed Services member.

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## **HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-24-05	pp. 868-869

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*"Public service officer" means an Ohio firefighter, volunteer firefighter, police officer, member of the highway patrol, employee designated to exercise the powers of police officers under Ohio law, or other peace officer as defined by the Revised Code, or a person holding any equivalent position in another state.*

<sup>2</sup>*"Private institution of higher education" refers to barber schools, schools of cosmetology, institutions with a certificate of authorization issued by the Ohio Board of Regents, and career colleges and universities.*

