

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL DRS45014-MK-48

Short Title: Waive Tuition/Correctional Officer. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Britt, McInnis, and Ballard (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ADD SURVIVORS OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE
3 OF DUTY AND THE SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS
4 WHO ARE DISABLED DUE TO A TRAUMATIC INJURY SUSTAINED IN THE LINE
5 OF DUTY TO THE STATUTES PROVIDING FOR A WAIVER OF TUITION FOR
6 CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TAKING COURSES THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF
7 NORTH CAROLINA OR A NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. G.S. 115B-1 reads as rewritten:

10 "§ 115B-1. Definitions.

11 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

12 (1) Correctional officer. – An employee of an employer who is certified as a State
13 correctional officer under the provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 17C of the
14 General Statutes.

15 ~~(1)~~(1a) Employer. – The State of North Carolina and its departments, agencies, and
16 institutions; or a county, city, town, or other political subdivision of the State.

17 ...

18 (4) Permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury
19 sustained in the line of duty. – A person: (i) who as a law enforcement officer,
20 correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker
21 suffered a disabling injury while in active service or training for active service,
22 (ii) who at the time of active service or training was a North Carolina resident,
23 and (iii) who has been determined to be permanently and totally disabled for
24 compensation purposes by the North Carolina Industrial Commission.

25 ...

26 (6) Survivor. – Any person whose parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or
27 spouse: (i) was a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter,
28 a volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad worker, (ii) was killed while in active
29 service or training for active service or died as a result of a service-connected
30 disability, and (iii) at the time of active service or training was a North
31 Carolina resident. The term does not include the widow or widower of a law
32 enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or
33 a rescue squad worker if the widow or widower has remarried.

34"

35 SECTION 2. G.S. 115B-2(a) reads as rewritten:



1 "(a) The constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and the community
2 colleges as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2) shall permit the following persons to attend classes for
3 credit or noncredit purposes without the required payment of tuition:

4 ...

5 (2) Any person who is the survivor of a law enforcement officer, correctional
6 officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker killed as a
7 direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

8 (3) The spouse of a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter,
9 volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally
10 disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

11 (4) Any child, if the child is at least 17 years old but not yet 24 years old, whose
12 parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian is a law enforcement officer,
13 correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker
14 who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury
15 sustained in the line of duty. However, a child's eligibility for a waiver of
16 tuition under this Chapter shall not exceed: (i) 54 months, if the child is
17 seeking a baccalaureate degree, or (ii) if the child is not seeking a
18 baccalaureate degree, the number of months required to complete the
19 educational program to which the child is applying.

20 "

21 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115B-5(b)(3) reads as rewritten:

22 "(3) The cause of death of the law enforcement officer, correctional officer,
23 firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker shall be verified by
24 certification from the records of the Department of State Treasurer, the
25 appropriate city or county law enforcement agency that employed the
26 deceased, the administrative agency for the fire department or fire protection
27 district recognized for funding under the Department of State Auditor, or the
28 administrative agency having jurisdiction over any paid firefighters of all
29 counties and cities."

30 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
31 the 2019-2020 academic year.