(123rd General Assembly)
(House Bill Number 740)

AN ACT

To amend section 3333.26 of the Revised Code to waive tuition payments for the children and spouses of public service officers killed in the line of duty.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That section 3333.26 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3333.26. (A) Any citizen of this state who has resided within the state for one year and who was in the active service of the United States as a soldier, sailor, nurse, or marine between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and who has been honorably discharged from such service, shall be admitted to any school, college, or university that receives state funds in support thereof, without being required to pay any tuition or matriculation fee, but is not relieved from the payment of laboratory or similar fees.

(B)(1) As used in this division:

(a) "Volunteer fire fighter" has the meaning given in division (B)(1) of section 146.01 of the Revised Code;

(b) "Public service officer" means an Ohio fire fighter, volunteer fire fighter, police officer, member of the highway patrol, employee designated to exercise the powers of police officers pursuant to section 1545.13 of the Revised Code, or other peace officer as defined by division (B) of section 2935.01 of the Revised Code, or a person holding any equivalent position in another state;

(c) "Qualified former spouse" means the former spouse of a ~~fire fighter or law enforcement~~ public service officer ~~described in division (B)(3) of this section~~ who is the custodial parent of a minor child of that marriage pursuant to an order allocating the parental rights and responsibilities for care of the child issued pursuant to section 3109.04 of the Revised Code.

(2) Any resident of this state who is under twenty-six years of age, or under thirty years of age if the resident has been honorably discharged from the armed services of the United States, and who is the child of ~~an Ohio fire fighter, volunteer fire fighter, police officer, member of the highway patrol, employee designated to exercise the powers of police officers pursuant to~~

~~section 1545.13 of the Revised Code, or other peace officer as defined by division (B) of section 2935.01 of the Revised Code,~~ a public service officer killed in the line of duty, and who is admitted to any state university or college as defined in division (A)(1) of section 3345.12 of the Revised Code, community college, state community college, university branch, or technical college, shall not be required to pay any tuition or any student fee for up to four academic years of education, which shall be at the undergraduate level.

(3) Any resident of this state who is the spouse or qualified former spouse of ~~an Ohio fire fighter, volunteer fire fighter, police officer, member of the highway patrol, employee designated to exercise powers of police officers pursuant to section 1545.13 of the Revised Code, or other peace officer as defined in division (B) of section 2935.01 of the Revised Code,~~ a public service officer killed in the line of duty, and who is admitted to any state university or college as defined in division (A)(1) of section 3345.12 of the Revised Code, community college, state community college, university branch, or technical college, shall not be required to pay any tuition or any student fee for up to four academic years of education, which shall be at the undergraduate level.

(C) Any institution that is not subject to division (B) of this section and that holds a valid certificate of registration issued under Chapter 3332., a valid certificate issued under Chapter 4709., or a valid license issued under Chapter 4713. of the Revised Code, or that is nonprofit and has a certificate of authorization issued under section 1713.02 of the Revised Code that reduces tuition and student fees of a student who is eligible to attend an institution of higher education under the provisions of division (B) of this section by an amount indicated by the Ohio board of regents shall be eligible to receive a grant in that amount from the board. Each institution that enrolls students under division (B) of this section shall report to the board, by the first day of July of each year, the number of students who were so enrolled and the average amount of all such tuition and fees waived during the preceding year. The board shall determine the average amount of all such tuition and fees waived during the preceding year. The average amount of tuition and fees waived under division (B) of this section during the preceding year shall be the amount of grants that participating institutions shall receive under this division during the current year, but no grant under this division shall exceed the tuition and student fees due and payable by the student prior to the reduction referred to in this division. Such grants shall be made for four years of undergraduate education of an eligible student.

SECTION 2. That existing section 3333.26 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Section 3333.26 of the Revised Code is presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended by both Am. Sub. H.B. 281 and Am. Sub. H.B. 627 of the 121st General Assembly, with the new language of neither of the acts shown in capital letters. This is in recognition of the principle stated in division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that such amendments are to be harmonized where not substantively irreconcilable and constitutes a legislative finding that such is the resulting version in effect prior to the effective date of this act.

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Speaker _____ of the House of Representatives.

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President _____ of the Senate.

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

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Governor.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

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Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ____ day of _____, A. D. 20____.

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Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____