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HOUSE BILL 55

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXPANDING THE BENEFITS AND SCHOOL
OPTIONS FOR RECIPIENTS OF THE FIRE FIGHTER AND PEACE OFFICER
SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 21-21F-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 50, Section 3) is amended to read:

"21-21F-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Fire Fighter and
Peace Officer Survivors Scholarship Act:

A. "board" or "department" means the ~~[board of
educational finance]~~ higher education department;

B. "cost of attendance" means the price of
attendance, the publication of which is required by federal
law, and includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, room
and board, transportation and any additional costs for a

underscored material = new
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1 program in which a student is enrolled;

2 [B-] C. "eligible institution" means any [state]
3 public institution of higher education in [~~New Mexico~~] any
4 state in the United States;

5 [G-] D. "fire fighter" means any member of a fire
6 department that is part of or administered by the state or any
7 political subdivision of the state;

8 [D-] E. "peace officer" means any member of a
9 police or sheriff's department that is part of or administered
10 by the state or any political subdivision of the state and
11 officers in the corrections department [~~of corrections; and~~];

12 F. "research institution" means the university of
13 New Mexico, New Mexico state university or New Mexico institute
14 of mining and technology; and

15 [E-] G. "survivor" means the spouse of the fire
16 fighter or peace officer killed in the line of duty and any
17 adopted or natural children twenty-one years of age or under at
18 the time of [~~his~~] the fire fighter's or peace officer's death."

19 SECTION 2. Section 21-21F-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
20 Chapter 50, Section 4) is amended to read:

21 "21-21F-4. ELIGIBILITY.--

22 A. A survivor meeting entrance requirements shall
23 be entitled to a scholarship to the eligible institution of
24 [~~his~~] the survivor's choice.

25 B. If the eligible institution is in New Mexico,

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1 the amount of the scholarship shall be equal to the amount of
2 tuition, room and board charged by the institution attended.
3 If the eligible institution is not in New Mexico, the amount of
4 the scholarship shall not exceed the average cost of attendance
5 at New Mexico research institutions.

6 C. The scholarship shall continue for such time as
7 the recipient remains a student in good standing at the
8 institution, but in no event shall any survivor receive a
9 scholarship for more than [~~five~~] six years."

10 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
11 provisions of this act is July 1, 2018.