

**First Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 01-0590.01 Beth Braby

SENATE BILL 01-069

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hanna,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

White,

Senate Committees

Govt, Veterans & Military Relations, & Trans
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR SPOUSES OF CERTAIN PERSONS,**
102 **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING TUITION**
103 **ASSISTANCE FOR THE SPOUSES OF DECEASED OR PERMANENTLY**
104 **DISABLED NATIONAL GUARDSMEN, LAW ENFORCEMENT**
105 **OFFICERS, AND FIREFIGHTERS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Authorizes a spouse of a deceased or permanently disabled national guardsman, law enforcement officer, or firefighter to pursue up to 6 years of studies at a state institution of higher education free of tuition and room and board charges upon being accepted for enrollment, as long as the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 17, 2001

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 16, 2001

studies are leading toward the spouse's first bachelor's degree or certificate of completion and as long as the spouse maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above.

Makes such spouses pursuing studies at a nonpublic institution of higher education within the state eligible for assistance not to exceed the average cost of undergraduate instruction calculated for a full-time equivalent student at a comparable state institution of higher education plus the average cost of room and board calculated for a full-time equivalent student at all state institutions.

Makes such spouses pursuing studies at an out-of-state institution of higher education eligible for assistance not to exceed the average cost of undergraduate instruction calculated for a full-time equivalent student at a comparable state institution of higher education.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 SECTION 1. 23-3.3-205 (1) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
3 amended, and the said 23-3.3-205 (1) is further amended BY THE
4 ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

5 23-3.3-205. Dependents of deceased or permanently disabled
6 national guardsman, law enforcement officer, or firefighter.

7 (1) (a) Any dependent of a person who died or was permanently disabled
8 while on state active duty, federalized active duty, or authorized training
9 duty as a Colorado national guardsman or any dependent of any person
10 who has been permanently disabled or killed while acting to preserve the
11 public peace, health, and safety in the capacity of police officer, sheriff,
12 or other law enforcement officer or firefighter, upon being accepted for
13 enrollment into any state institution, shall be permitted to pursue studies
14 leading toward his or her first bachelor's degree or certificate of
15 completion, free of tuition and free of room and board charges of the
16 institution, for so long as said dependent achieves and maintains a
17 cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above based upon a 4.0 scale, but
18 said benefits shall not be extended beyond six years from the date of

1 enrollment. Such dependents pursuing studies at a nonpublic institution
2 of higher education within the state of Colorado shall be eligible for
3 assistance not to exceed the average cost of undergraduate instruction
4 calculated for a full-time equivalent student at a comparable state
5 institution for the previous year, and the average cost of room and board
6 calculated for a full-time equivalent student at all state institutions for the
7 previous year. Such dependents pursuing studies at an out-of-state
8 institution of higher education shall be eligible for assistance not to
9 exceed the average cost of undergraduate instruction calculated for a
10 full-time equivalent student at a comparable state institution for the
11 previous year. The commission shall provide tuition and, if appropriate,
12 room and board assistance to such qualified students DEPENDENTS from
13 appropriated student financial assistance funds.

14 (c) ANY SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO DIED OR WAS PERMANENTLY
15 DISABLED WHILE ON STATE ACTIVE DUTY, FEDERALIZED ACTIVE DUTY, OR
16 AUTHORIZED TRAINING DUTY AS A COLORADO NATIONAL GUARDSMAN OR
17 ANY SPOUSE OF ANY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY DISABLED OR
18 KILLED WHILE ACTING TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, AND
19 SAFETY IN THE CAPACITY OF POLICE OFFICER, SHERIFF, OR OTHER LAW
20 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER, UPON BEING ACCEPTED FOR
21 ENROLLMENT INTO ANY STATE INSTITUTION, SHALL BE PERMITTED TO
22 PURSUE STUDIES LEADING TOWARD HIS OR HER FIRST BACHELOR'S DEGREE
23 OR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION, FREE OF TUITION FOR SO LONG AS SAID
24 SPOUSE ACHIEVES AND MAINTAINS A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE
25 OF 2.5 OR ABOVE BASED UPON A 4.0 SCALE, BUT SAID BENEFITS SHALL NOT
26 BE EXTENDED BEYOND SIX YEARS FROM THE DATE OF ENROLLMENT OR
27 COMPLETION OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY CREDIT HOURS, WHICHEVER

1 OCCURS FIRST. SUCH SPOUSES PURSUING STUDIES AT A NONPUBLIC
2 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN THE STATE OF COLORADO
3 SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE NOT TO EXCEED THE AVERAGE COST
4 OF UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTION CALCULATED FOR A FULL-TIME
5 EQUIVALENT STUDENT AT A COMPARABLE STATE INSTITUTION FOR THE
6 PREVIOUS YEAR. SUCH SPOUSES PURSUING STUDIES AT AN OUT-OF-STATE
7 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE
8 NOT TO EXCEED THE AVERAGE COST OF UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTION
9 CALCULATED FOR A FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT AT A COMPARABLE
10 STATE INSTITUTION FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE COMMISSION SHALL
11 PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE TO SUCH QUALIFIED SPOUSES FROM
12 APPROPRIATED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS, SUBJECT TO
13 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS AND CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS
14 OF SECTION 23-3.3-202.

15
16 **SECTION 2.** 23-3.3-202, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended,
17 and the said 23-3.3-202 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A
18 NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

19 **23-3.3-202. Program funding - dependents - spouses.** (1) Out
20 of any moneys provided for the financial assistance program authorized
21 by section 23-3.3-102, the commission shall first provide tuition
22 assistance to ~~individuals~~ DEPENDENTS who qualify under the provisions
23 of this part 2.

24 (2) OUT OF ANY MONEYS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)
25 OF THIS SECTION FOR THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY
26 SECTION 23-3.3-205 AND REMAINING AFTER PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO
27 DEPENDENTS WHO QUALIFY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PART 2, THE

1 COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE TO SPOUSES WHO
2 QUALIFY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PART 2.

3 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.