



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 37: Waive Tuition/Fallen Officer Was Guardian

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education	Date:	February 25, 2015
Introduced by:	Sens. Smith, Apodaca	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S37-CSTC-1		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 37 would require UNC campuses and North Carolina community colleges to waive tuition for children whose legal guardians are law enforcement officers, firefighters, volunteer firefighters, or rescue squad workers who are killed as a direct result of traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty or are permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. The Proposed Committee Substitute for SB 37 would do the following:

- Also allow tuition to be waived for children whose legal custodians are killed as a direct result of traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty or are permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
- Clarify that the guardianship and custodian relationships must be verified by an order from a court proceeding.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H19, as introduced by Rep. C. Graham, which is currently in House Education - Universities, if favorable, Appropriations.]

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 115B of the General Statutes requires campuses of The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina community colleges to waive tuition for certain individuals including:

- Survivors of law enforcement officers, firefighters, volunteer firefighters, or rescue squad workers killed as direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. The definition of “survivor” is an individual whose parent or spouse: (i) was a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a volunteer firefighter, or a rescue squad worker, and (ii) was killed while in active service or training for active service or died as a result of a service-connected disability.
- Spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, volunteer firefighters, or rescue squad workers permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.
- Any child, if the child is at least 17 years old but not yet 24 years old, whose parent is a law enforcement officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

The relationships are verified by birth certificates or marriage certificates or other documentary evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.

BILL ANALYSIS: The Proposed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 37 would require UNC campuses and North Carolina community colleges to waive tuition for children whose legal guardians and legal custodians are law enforcement officers, firefighters, volunteer firefighters, or rescue squad

O. Walker Reagan
Director



Research Division
(919) 733-2578

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Senate Bill 37

Page 2

workers who are killed as a direct result of traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty or are permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. The PCS also provides that the guardianship and custodian relationships must be verified by an order from a court proceeding rather than evidence deemed appropriate by the institution.

Finally, the PCS makes several technical changes to fix incorrect cross-references in the relevant statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2015 fall academic semester.