



HOUSE BILL 702: Seniors CC Tuition Waiver.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	April 20, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Howard, Setzer, Henson, Elmore	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The 2nd edition of House Bill 702 would require the State Board of Community Colleges to waive tuition and registration fees for up to six hours of credit instruction and one course of non-credit instruction per academic semester for senior citizens.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115D-5(b) identifies individuals and entities for whom tuition and registration fees can be waived. These costs may not be waived for anyone not listed in the statute. Examples include:

- Persons not enrolled in elementary or secondary schools taking courses leading to a high school diploma or equivalent certificate.
- Volunteer firefighters enrolled in specialized courses.
- Trainees enrolled in courses conducted under the Customized Training Program.
- Elementary and secondary school employees enrolled in CPR courses.

BILL ANALYSIS: The 2nd edition of House Bill 702 would modify G.S. 115D-5(b) and require the State Board of Community Colleges to waive tuition and registration fees for up to six hours of credit instruction and one course of non-credit instruction per academic semester for senior citizens who are at least 65 years of age and are residents of North Carolina for tuition purposes. Other costs such as books and instructional materials would not be covered by the waiver.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective July 1, 2017, and would apply beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 2009, tuition for senior citizens was waived without limitation. In 2009, S.L. 2009-451, s. 8.11.(d) limited the waiver to six hours of credit per academic semester for senior citizens who were at least 65 years of age and were legal residents of North Carolina. The waiver was repealed in 2013 by S.L. 2013-360, s. 10.6. A study of the community college tuition waivers was completed in 2011 by the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly (<http://ncleg.net/Library/studies/2011/st11878.pdf>).

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