



SENATE BILL 225: Repeal Tuition Surcharge.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 11, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn*
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-68		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-68 repeals the 50% tuition surcharge imposed on students who take more than 140 degree credit hours to complete a baccalaureate degree in a four-year program or more than 110% of the credit hours to complete a baccalaureate degree in a five-year program.*

This act became effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 116-143.7 requires the Board of Governors to impose a 50% tuition surcharge on students who take more than 140 degree credit hours to complete a baccalaureate degree in a four-year program or more than 110% of the credit hours necessary to complete a baccalaureate degree in a five-year program. Credit hours included in the calculation are (i) those taken at that constituent institution or accepted for transfer; and (ii) any course the student fails or does not complete, unless the incomplete course was officially dropped.

Excluded from the calculation are credit hours earned through (i) the College Board's Advanced Placement Program, CLEP examinations, or similar programs; (ii) institutional advanced placement, course validation, or any similar procedure for awarding course credit; and (iii) summer term or extension programs.

Waivers of the tuition surcharge can be granted if the student demonstrates that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's pursuit of a degree: (i) a military service obligation; (ii) serious medical debilitation; (iii) a short-term or long-term disability; and (iv) other extraordinary hardship.

G.S. 116-143.9 establishes the fixed tuition payment program (Program). For any freshman or transfer undergraduate student admitted to any constituent institution that is a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes, the Program guarantees that the rate of tuition for the student at the constituent institution will remain constant or decrease during the tuition period. The tuition period for a student seeking a baccalaureate degree in a four-year program is 8 consecutive semesters and for a student in a five-year program is 10 consecutive semesters. The tuition period may be tolled if a student is able to demonstrate a substantial disruption or interruption to the student's pursuit of a degree, as provided in G.S. 116-143.7, described above. If a student continues past the tuition period, the student is no longer eligible to receive the guaranteed tuition rate and is charged the current tuition rate. In addition, the student may be charged the tuition surcharge.

BILL ANALYSIS: This act repeals the tuition surcharge requirement. Additionally, it clarifies that the fixed tuition period can be tolled if the student can demonstrate that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's pursuit of a degree: (i) a military service obligation; (ii) serious medical debilitation; (iii) a short-term or long-term disability; and (iv) other extraordinary hardship.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Samantha Yarborough and Drupti Chauhan, Staff Attorneys with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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