



# SENATE BILL 225: Repeal Tuition Surcharge.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations/Base Budget. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	March 20, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Perry, Tillman, Horner	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Samantha Yarborough Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** Senate Bill 225 would repeal 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.

**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:** Senate Bill 225 would repeal G.S. 116-143.7, the tuition surcharge requirement. It would still allow the tuition period to 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:** Senate Bill 225 would become effective July 1, 2019, and apply beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

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