

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Senate Amendments**

Fifty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2079**

Introduced by

Education Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Higher Education)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15-10-18.3 and 15-10-18.5 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to free higher education tuition and fees for dependents of  
3 veterans and survivors of firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and peace  
4 officers.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-18.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **15-10-18.3. Free tuition in North Dakota institutions of higher education.** Any  
9 dependent, as defined in section 15-10-18.2 upon being duly accepted for enrollment into any  
10 undergraduate degree or certificate program of a North Dakota state-supported state institution  
11 of higher education ~~or state-supported career and technical education school~~, must be allowed  
12 to obtain a bachelor's degree or certificate of completion, for so long as the dependent is  
13 eligible, free of any tuition and fee charges, ~~except those charged to retire outstanding bonds~~;  
14 provided, however, that the bachelor's degree or certificate of completion is earned within a  
15 ~~thirty-six-month~~ forty-five-month or ~~eight-semester~~ ten-semester period or its equivalent; and  
16 further provided that tuition and fee charges shall not include costs for aviation flight charges or  
17 expenses. Once a person qualifies as a dependent under sections 15-10-18.2 and 15-10-18.3,  
18 ~~there shall be no removal~~ the dependent may not be disqualified from the benefits of this  
19 section due to such an occurrence as the return of the prisoner of war or person missing in  
20 action.

21 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-18.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **15-10-18.5. Free tuition in North Dakota institutions of higher education for**  
24 **survivor of firefighter, emergency medical services personnel, or peace officer. ~~Should If~~**

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1 a firefighter, an emergency medical services personnel as defined under section 23-27-04.3, or  
2 a peace officer ~~die~~ dies as a direct result of injuries received while engaged in the performance  
3 of official duties under circumstances dangerous to human life, the survivor, upon being duly  
4 accepted for enrollment into any undergraduate degree or certificate program of a North  
5 Dakota ~~state-supported~~ state institution of higher education ~~or state-supported career and~~  
6 ~~technical education school~~, must be allowed to obtain a bachelor's degree or certificate of  
7 completion, for so long as the dependent is eligible, free of any tuition and fee charges, ~~except~~  
8 ~~those charged to retire outstanding bonds~~; provided, however, that the bachelor's degree or  
9 certificate of completion is earned within a ~~thirty-six-month~~ forty-five-month or ~~eight semester~~  
10 ten-semester period or its equivalent; and further provided that tuition and fee charges may not  
11 include costs for aviation flight charges or expenses.