

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 technicians, and peace officers.

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

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

7 **15-10-18.3. Free tuition in North Dakota institutions of higher education.** Any
8 dependent, as defined in section 15-10-18.2 upon being duly accepted for enrollment into any
9 undergraduate degree or certificate program of a North Dakota state-supported state institution
10 of higher education ~~or state-supported career and technical education school~~, must be allowed
11 to obtain a bachelor's degree or certificate of completion, for so long as the dependent is
12 eligible, free of any tuition and fee charges, ~~except those charged to retire outstanding bonds;~~
13 provided, however, that the bachelor's degree or certificate of completion is earned within a
14 ~~thirty-six-month~~ forty-five-month or ~~eight-semester~~ ten-semester period or its equivalent; and
15 further provided that tuition and fee charges shall not include costs for aviation flight charges or
16 expenses. Once a person qualifies as a dependent under sections 15-10-18.2 and 15-10-18.3,
17 ~~there shall be no removal~~ the dependent may not be disqualified from the benefits of this
18 section due to such an occurrence as the return of the prisoner of war or person missing in
19 action.

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

22 **15-10-18.5. Free tuition in North Dakota institutions of higher education for**
23 **survivor of firefighter, emergency medical technician, or peace officer.** Should a
24 firefighter, emergency medical technician, or peace officer die as a direct result of injuries

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