

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1171**

Introduced by

Representatives Heinert, Dockter, Hauck, Meier, Novak, Porter, Ista, Conmy

Senators Cleary, Cory, Dever

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of the law enforcement family scholarship program; and  
3 to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Law enforcement family scholarship program - Administration.**

8 1. As used in this section:

- 9 a. "Correctional officer" means an individual who has completed a correctional  
10 officer course approved by the department of corrections and rehabilitation and is  
11 employed by a correctional facility as defined in section 12-44.1-01.
- 12 b. "Eligible student" means an individual:
- 13 (1) For whom a law enforcement officer claimed a dependency exemption on  
14 the law enforcement officer's tax return for the previous year; and
- 15 (2) Who is enrolled at an institution of higher education under the control of the  
16 state board of higher education.
- 17 c. "Emergency services provider" means an individual employed full-time as  
18 emergency medical services personnel as defined under section 23-27-02.
- 19 d. "Firefighter" means an individual employed as a firefighter by a political  
20 subdivision. The term does not include a firefighter employee of the national  
21 guard.
- 22 e. "Law enforcement officer" means a correctional officer, emergency services  
23 provider, firefighter, or peace officer, as defined in this section, who has served  
24 full-time in that position in the state for at least three years.

- 1           f. "Peace officer" means a public servant authorized by law or a government  
2           agency or branch to enforce the law and to conduct or engage in investigations of  
3           violations of the law.
- 4        2. The state board of higher education shall:
- 5           a. Administer the law enforcement family scholarship program and adopt  
6           procedures necessary to carry out this section.
- 7           b. Grant a scholarship to an eligible student who applies for a scholarship.
- 8        3. The amount of the scholarship is a sum equal to fifty percent of the student's tuition,  
9           less any other grants and scholarships the student will receive.

10        **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - LAW**

11        **ENFORCEMENT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any  
12        moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of  
13        \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the board of higher education, for  
14        the purpose of distributing scholarships to students who are eligible to receive a law  
15        enforcement family scholarship, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,  
16        2027.