

STORAGE NAME: h2293a.cu

DATE: April 18, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
Colleges & Universities
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 2293

RELATING TO: Educational Benefits for Children of Slain Law Enforcement Officers

SPONSOR(S): Representative Villalobos

TIED BILL(S): None

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES YEAS 8 NAYS 0
 - (2) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

The bill expands the educational benefits currently available to the children of slain officers by providing for the waiver of the student's tuition, matriculation, and registration fees while the student pursues a graduate or postbaccalaureate professional degree. Unlike the provisions governing benefits to children of slain officers who are pursuing a vocational-technical program or an undergraduate degree, there is no age restriction or credit hour limit.

The number of eligible persons who may take advantage of the fee waivers to pursue graduate or professional degrees is unknown. Consequently, the fiscal impact on the state universities in terms of loss fee revenues is indeterminate.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2000.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Less Government Yes No N/A
- 2. Lower Taxes Yes No N/A
- 3. Individual Freedom Yes No N/A
- 4. Personal Responsibility Yes No N/A
- 5. Family Empowerment Yes No N/A

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 112.19, F.S., provides for certain death benefits to the beneficiaries or estate of a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer killed in the line of duty. The officer must have been accidentally killed on or after June 22, 1990, as a result of the officer's response to fresh pursuit or the officer's response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency or the officer must have been unlawfully or intentionally killed on or after July 1, 1980. Under the aforementioned circumstances, the state waives certain educational expenses which the children of the deceased officer incur while obtaining a vocational-technical-certificate or an undergraduate education. The state waives the cost of tuition and matriculation and registration fees for a total of 120 credit hours. The child must attend a public postsecondary institution. The child may enroll on either a full or part-time basis. The child must comply with the ordinary and minimum requirements of the institution attended, both as to discipline and scholarship or the benefits will be withdrawn. Only a student in good standing at his or her institution may receive the benefits. The benefits continue until the child's 25th birthday. The State University System (SUS) reports that for 1998-1999, waivers valued at \$16,863 were provided to 20 undergraduate students pursuant to the provisions of s. 112.19, F.S.

The Senate bill analysis for SB 1024, the companion to HB 2293, provides actual data from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Department of Corrections regarding the number of officers slain in the line of duty. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's report, *Crime in Florida, Florida Uniform Crime Report, 1991 - 1998*, seven municipal, county, state and university officers have been accidentally killed in the line of duty since 1991. In addition, 76 municipal, county, state and university officers have been intentionally killed in the line of duty since 1980. According to data from the Department of Corrections, a total of two correctional and correctional probation officers have been accidentally killed in the line of duty since 1990. Additionally, four correctional and correctional probation officers have been intentionally killed since 1980.

A student who attends a state university is typically assessed the following fees to enroll in a course: matriculation, tuition (if non-resident), financial aid fee, building fee, capital improvement fee, activity and service fee, athletic fee, and health fee. The average SUS tuition and required fees for a full-time student for 1999-2000 by level and program are:

Level/Program	Resident	Non-Resident
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Undergraduate	\$ 2,233	\$ 9,222
Graduate	\$ 3,541	\$12,199
Law	\$ 3,891	\$12,909
Medical	\$10,947	\$29,480
Dental	\$ 9,626	\$25,742
Vet. Medicine	\$ 8,211	\$21,748

The funds in Specific Appropriations 180, 181, 182, and 183 of the General Appropriations Act for 1999 - 2000 include \$ 44.7 million for fee waivers. Representatives of the SUS indicate that the funds are primarily used to support graduate assistant matriculation waivers and out-of-state tuition waivers.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill expands the educational benefits currently available to the children of slain officers by providing for the waiver of tuition, matriculation, and registration fees for a child pursuing a graduate or postbaccalaureate professional degree. Unlike the provisions governing benefits to children of slain officers who are pursuing a vocational-technical program or an undergraduate degree, there is no age restriction or credit hour limit.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See FISCAL COMMENTS.

2. Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Children of slain officers who choose to pursue a graduate or postbaccalaureate professional degree will not be required to pay matriculation, tuition or other required fees.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The number of eligible persons who may take advantage of the fee waivers to pursue graduate or professional degrees is unknown. Consequently, the fiscal impact on the state universities in terms of loss fee revenues is indeterminate.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

The bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

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VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON Colleges & Universities:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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