

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0270.02 Veronica Parish x2606

SENATE BILL 26-067

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sullivan,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Clifford,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A TUITION WAIVER FOR DEPENDENTS OF QUALIFIED**
102 **VETERANS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill creates a tuition waiver for qualified dependents of disabled veterans to attend state colleges or universities.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-7.4-303 as
2 follows:

3 **23-7.4-303. Tuition assistance program for dependents and**
4 **spouses of qualified veterans - created - administration - funding -**
5 **rules - definitions.**

6 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
7 REQUIRES:

8 (a) "COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID" HAS THE
9 MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 22-2-127 (1)(a).

10 (b) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER
11 EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-1-102.

12 (c) "DEPENDENT" MEANS:

13 (I) A SPOUSE, SURVIVING SPOUSE, PARTNER IN A CIVIL UNION, OR
14 SURVIVING PARTNER IN A CIVIL UNION; OR

15 (II) A CHILD, INCLUDING ADOPTED CHILDREN, STEPCHILDREN, AND
16 FOSTER CHILDREN, OR A CHILD WHO WAS CLAIMED AS A DEPENDENT BY A
17 QUALIFIED VETERAN ON THEIR TAX RETURN, UNDER TWENTY-SIX YEARS
18 OLD.

19 (d) "FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID" HAS THE
20 MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 22-2-127 (1)(c).

21 (e) "QUALIFIED VETERAN" MEANS A VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN
22 SECTION 28-5-100.3, WHO:

23 (I) WAS KILLED IN ACTION;

24 (II) DIED IN ACTIVE SERVICE FROM OTHER CAUSES;

25 (III) IS MISSING IN ACTION;

26 (IV) IS A PRISONER OF WAR;

27 (V) DIED AS A RESULT OF A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

1 INCURRED DURING A WARTIME PERIOD;

2 (VI) WAS, PRIOR TO DEATH, RATED ONE-HUNDRED-PERCENT
3 PERMANENTLY SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED BY THE UNITED STATES
4 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BY EVALUATION OF THE RATING
5 SCHEDULE; OR

6 (VII) HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
7 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO BE UNEMPLOYABLE AS A RESULT OF A
8 SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

9 (f) "STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH
10 IN SECTION 23-2-102.

11 (2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL
12 IMPLEMENT A POLICY WHEREBY, EXCEPT AS LIMITED IN THIS SECTION, EACH
13 STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY SHALL WAIVE ALL TUITION COSTS,
14 INCLUDING ANY MANDATORY FEES, DUES, OR OTHER REQUIRED CHARGES,
15 ASSOCIATED WITH ATTENDANCE AT THE INSTITUTION FOR A DEPENDENT OF
16 A QUALIFIED VETERAN UPON RECEIPT OF A CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER
17 ELIGIBILITY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (3) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE TUITION WAIVER, A DEPENDENT
19 OF A QUALIFIED VETERAN MUST:

20 (a) BE ACCEPTED BY A STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY;

21 (b) COMPLETE THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL
22 AID OR THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID; AND

23 (c) REMAIN IN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC STANDING IN
24 ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACADEMIC POLICIES OF THE STATE COLLEGE OR
25 UNIVERSITY.

26 (4) THE TUITION WAIVER MUST NOT EXTEND BEYOND SIX YEARS OF
27 THE DATE OF ENROLLMENT.

1 (5) THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL
2 ADOPT RULES TO CERTIFY ELIGIBILITY AT THE REQUEST OF A DEPENDENT
3 OF A QUALIFIED VETERAN AND PRODUCE TO THE DEPENDENT OF A
4 QUALIFIED VETERAN A CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER ELIGIBILITY. THE
5 DEPENDENT OF A QUALIFIED VETERAN SHALL SUBMIT THE CERTIFICATE OF
6 WAIVER ELIGIBILITY TO THE STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AT WHICH THE
7 DEPENDANT IS ENROLLED.

8 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
9 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
10 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
11 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
12 institutions.