

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

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0270.02 Veronica Parish x2606

SENATE BILL 26-067

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sullivan,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Clifford,

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

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 A CHILD, INCLUDING ADOPTED CHILDREN,
13 STEPCHILDREN, FOSTER CHILDREN, A CHILD WHO WAS CLAIMED, OR AN
14 UNBORN CHILD WHO COULD BE CLAIMED AS A DEPENDENT BY A QUALIFIED
15 VETERAN ON THEIR FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN FOR THE MOST RECENT
16 TAX YEAR.

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

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

- 21 (I) WAS KILLED IN ACTION;
- 22 (II) DIED IN ACTIVE SERVICE FROM OTHER CAUSES;
- 23 (III) IS MISSING IN ACTION;
- 24 (IV) IS OR WAS A PRISONER OF WAR;
- 25 (V) DIED AS A RESULT OF A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY;
- 26 (VI) IS RATED ONE-HUNDRED-PERCENT PERMANENTLY
27 SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF

1 VETERANS BY EVALUATION OF THE RATING SCHEDULE, OR WAS SO RATED
2 PRIOR TO DEATH;

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

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

8 (2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL
9 IMPLEMENT A POLICY WHEREBY, EXCEPT AS LIMITED IN THIS SECTION, EACH
10 STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY SHALL WAIVE ALL TUITION COSTS,
11 INCLUDING ANY MANDATORY FEES, DUES, OR OTHER REQUIRED CHARGES,
12 ASSOCIATED WITH ATTENDANCE AT THE INSTITUTION FOR A DEPENDENT OF
13 A QUALIFIED VETERAN UPON RECEIPT OF A CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER
14 ELIGIBILITY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION. A DEPENDENT
15 OF A QUALIFIED VETERAN IS CONSIDERED AN IN-STATE STUDENT AS SET
16 FORTH IN SECTION 23-7-102 (5).

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

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

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

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

25 (4) THE TUITION WAIVER MUST NOT EXTEND BEYOND SIX YEARS OF
26 THE DATE OF ENROLLMENT, AND THE WAIVER MAY NOT EXCEED ONE
27 HUNDRED FIFTY CREDIT HOURS FOR ANY ONE DEPENDENT OF A QUALIFIED

1 VETERAN.

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

9 (6) THE EXEMPTION FROM TUITION, FEES, AND OTHER CHARGES
10 DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY IN A SEMESTER OR TERM TO
11 A DEPENDENT WHO, AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION, IS ENTITLED TO
12 RECEIVE EDUCATION BENEFITS UNDER FEDERAL LAW THAT MUST BE USED
13 ONLY FOR THE PAYMENT OF TUITION AND FEES IF THE VALUE OF THOSE
14 BENEFITS RECEIVED IN THE SEMESTER OR OTHER TERM IS EQUAL TO OR
15 EXCEEDS THE VALUE OF THE WAIVER FOR THE SEMESTER OR OTHER TERM.

16 (7) THE WAIVER MUST ONLY BE APPLIED TO THE REMAINING
17 BALANCE OF A DEPENDENT'S TUITION AND FEE COSTS AFTER ANY OTHER
18 FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS, OR GRANTS HAVE BEEN APPLIED,
19 INCLUDING AFTER APPLYING EDUCATION BENEFITS THE DEPENDENT IS
20 ENTITLED TO PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAW THAT MUST BE USED ONLY FOR
21 THE PAYMENT OF TUITION.

22 (8) THE WAIVER DOES NOT APPLY TO A DEPENDENT'S
23 POST-GRADUATE STUDIES.

24 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate

1 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
2 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
3 institutions.