

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 448

BY REPRESENTATIVE ADAMS

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Authorizes scholarships provided for firefighters injured in the line of duty and spouses of firefighters injured or killed in the line of duty to be used for a master's degree

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1682.2(A) and (C), relative to scholarships; to provide
3 relative to scholarships for certain firefighters and spouses of certain firefighters; to
4 provide use of certain scholarships; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:1682.2(A) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §1682.2. Scholarships for spouses of firefighters killed or disabled in performance
9 of duty; scholarships for disabled firefighters

10 A. The spouse of a firefighter who is injured in the course and scope of the
11 performance of his duties and the injury causes death or serious injury resulting in
12 an inability to be employed, which spouse is otherwise eligible and meets all of the
13 entrance requirements of a college or university, shall be admitted to such college
14 or university without the payment of any fees, tuition, or other charges, including
15 room and board charges. As long as such spouse meets the academic requirements
16 and maintains a "C" average for each semester and complies with the rules and
17 regulations of such college or university required for attendance therein as a full-time
18 student such spouse shall receive the exemption. Such exemption shall exist for such
19 spouse for the number of semesters required of a full-time student to obtain one

1 bachelor or master's degree offered by such college or university. In addition
2 thereto, such spouse shall be entitled to a cash grant of two hundred fifty dollars per
3 semester from such college or university as an allowance for books and all of the
4 above sums shall be paid out of funds appropriated from the general fund of the state
5 of Louisiana.

6 * * *

7 C. Any firefighter who is injured in the performance of duties as a firefighter
8 and such injury results in an inability to be employed, and the firefighter is otherwise
9 eligible and meets all of the entrance requirements of a college or university, such
10 firefighter shall be admitted to such college or university without the payment of any
11 fees, tuition, or other charges, including room and board charges, as long as such
12 firefighter meets the academic requirements and maintains a "C" average for each
13 semester and complies with the rules and regulations of such college or university
14 required for attendance therein as a full-time student. Such exemption shall exist for
15 such firefighter for the number of semesters required of a full-time student to obtain
16 one bachelor or master's degree offered by such college or university. In addition
17 thereto, such firefighter shall be entitled to a cash grant of two hundred fifty dollars
18 per semester from such college or university as an allowance for books and all of the
19 above sums shall be paid out of funds appropriated from the general fund of the state
20 of Louisiana.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 448 Original 2026 Regular Session Adams

Abstract: Authorizes the use of certain scholarships for former firefighters and spouses of former firefighters for a master's degree.

Present law provides for scholarships for the following categories of people:

- (1) A firefighter who is injured in his line of duty in which injury results in the inability to remain employed.

- (2) The spouse of a firefighter who is killed in the line of duty or injured in the line of duty and which injury results in the inability to remain employed.

Present law requires each scholarship recipient to meet all entrance requirements to the college or university to which he applies, and to maintain a "C" average each semester.

Present law limits the use of the scholarship to 10 semesters. Requires scholarship to cover all tuition and fees.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law limits use of scholarship to obtaining one bachelor degree. Proposed law adds option to use scholarship to obtain one master's degree.

(Amends R.S. 17:1682.2(A) and (C))