

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 448

BY REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, CARPENTER, CARVER, CHASSION, FREIBERG,  
LACOMBE, MARTINEZ, ST. BLANC, AND TAYLOR

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Authorizes scholarships provided for firefighters and police officers injured in the line of duty and spouses of firefighters and police officers injured or killed in the line of duty to be used for any postgraduate degree

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1681.2(A) and (C) and 1682.2(A) and (C), relative to  
3 scholarships; to provide relative to scholarships for certain firefighters and spouses  
4 of certain firefighters; to provide relative to scholarships for certain police officers  
5 and spouses of certain police officers; to provide use of certain scholarships; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:1681.2(A) and (C) and 1682.2(A) and (C) are hereby amended  
9 and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §1681.2. Scholarships for spouses of police officers killed or disabled in  
11 performance of duty and for police officers injured in the performance of  
12 duty

13 A. The spouse of a police officer who is injured in the course and scope of  
14 the performance of his duties and the injury causes death or serious injury resulting  
15 in an inability to be employed, which spouse is otherwise eligible and meets all of  
16 the entrance requirements of a college or university, shall be admitted to a college  
17 or university without the payment of any fees, tuition, or other charges, including  
18 room and board charges. As long as the spouse meets the academic requirements and  
19 maintains a "C" average for each semester and complies with the rules and

1 regulations of the college or university required for attendance, as a full-time student,  
 2 the spouse shall receive the exemption. ~~The~~ Such exemption shall exist for the  
 3 spouse ~~for the number of semesters required of a full-time student to obtain one~~  
 4 ~~bachelor~~ to obtain one bachelor's, master's, doctoral, or other postgraduate degree  
 5 offered by the college or university. In addition, the spouse shall be entitled to a cash  
 6 grant of two hundred fifty dollars per semester from the college or university as an  
 7 allowance for books, and all of the above sums shall be paid out of funds  
 8 appropriated from the general fund of the state of Louisiana.

9 \* \* \*

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

25 \* \* \*

26 §1682.2. Scholarships for spouses of firefighters killed or disabled in performance  
 27 of duty; scholarships for disabled firefighters

28 A. The spouse of a firefighter who is injured in the course and scope of the  
 29 performance of his duties and the injury causes death or serious injury resulting in

1 an inability to be employed, which spouse is otherwise eligible and meets all of the  
 2 entrance requirements of a college or university, shall be admitted to such college  
 3 or university without the payment of any fees, tuition, or other charges, including  
 4 room and board charges. As long as such spouse meets the academic requirements  
 5 and maintains a "C" average for each semester and complies with the rules and  
 6 regulations of such college or university required for attendance therein as a full-time  
 7 student such spouse shall receive the exemption. Such exemption shall exist for such  
 8 spouse ~~for the number of semesters required of a full-time student to obtain one~~  
 9 ~~bachelor~~ to obtain one bachelor's, master's, doctoral, or other postgraduate degree  
 10 offered by such college or university. In addition thereto, such spouse shall be  
 11 entitled to a cash grant of two hundred fifty dollars per semester from such college  
 12 or university as an allowance for books and all of the above sums shall be paid out  
 13 of funds appropriated from the general fund of the state of Louisiana.

14 \* \* \*

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

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HB 448 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Adams

**Abstract:** Authorizes the use of certain scholarships for former firefighters, spouses of former firefighters, former police officers, and spouses of former police officers for any postgraduate 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.
- (3) A police officer who is injured in his line of duty in which injury results in the inability to remain employed.
- (4) The spouse of a police officer 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 any postgraduate degree.

(Amends R.S. 17:1681.2(A) and (C) and 1682.2(A) and (C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add option to use scholarship to obtain any postgraduate degree.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add police officer who is injured in his line of duty in which injury results in the inability to remain employed, the spouse of such a police officer, and the spouse of a police officer who is killed in the line of duty.
2. Make technical changes.