

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 22

BY SENATOR WHEAT

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES. Creates scholarships for spouses of police officers killed or disabled in performance of duty. (gov sig)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:1681(G) and 1681.2, relative to scholarships for spouses of police officers killed or disabled in performance of duty; to provide for definitions; to provide for scholarship requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:1681(G) and 1681.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1681. Children of police officers and deputy sheriffs; definitions

\* \* \*

**G. "Spouse" means the wife or husband of the police officer or deputy sheriff who is living in the same household and who is dependent upon the police officer or deputy sheriff for support if the police officer or deputy sheriff is alive and permanently disabled. Spouse also means the wife or husband of a police officer or deputy sheriff who is deceased and who was living in the same household and was dependent upon the police officer or deputy sheriff for support at the time of the injury which resulted in the police officer or deputy sheriff's death.**

\* \* \*

1           **§1681.2. Scholarships for spouses of police officers killed or disabled in**  
 2                                   **performance of duty**

3           **A. The spouse of a police officer who is injured in the course and scope**  
 4           **of the performance of his duties and the injury causes death or serious injury**  
 5           **resulting in an inability to be employed, which spouse is otherwise eligible and**  
 6           **meets all of the entrance requirements of a college or university, shall be**  
 7           **admitted to a college or university without the payment of any fees, tuition, or**  
 8           **other charges, including room and board charges. As long as the spouse meets**  
 9           **the academic requirements and maintains a "C" average for each semester and**  
 10           **complies with the rules and regulations of the college or university required for**  
 11           **attendance, as a full-time student, the spouse shall receive the exemption. The**  
 12           **exemption shall exist for the spouse for the number of semesters required of a**  
 13           **full-time student to obtain one bachelor degree offered by the college or**  
 14           **university. In addition, the spouse shall be entitled to a cash grant of two**  
 15           **hundred fifty dollars per semester from the college or university as an**  
 16           **allowance for books and all of the above sums shall be paid out of funds**  
 17           **appropriated from the general fund of the state of Louisiana.**

18           **B. In no event shall any spouse be allowed more than ten semesters**  
 19           **under the provisions of this Section.**

20           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 21           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 22           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 23           vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 24           effective on the day following such approval.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Frances Aucoin.

---

Proposed law defines "spouse" to mean the wife or husband of the police officer or deputy  
 sheriff living in the same household with and dependent upon the police officer or deputy  
 sheriff for support. Proposed law further defines "spouse" to mean the wife or husband of

a police officer or deputy sheriff who is deceased and who was living in the same household and was dependent upon the police officer or deputy sheriff for support at the time of the injury which resulted in the police officer or deputy sheriff's death.

Present law (R.S. 17:1681.1) provides scholarships for the children of police officers, deputy sheriffs, or certain probation and parole officers killed or permanently disabled in performance of duty.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the spouse of a police officer injured in the course and scope of the performance of his duties, which injury causes death or serious injury resulting in an inability to be employed, and if the spouse is otherwise eligible and meets all of the entrance requirements of a college or university, shall be awarded a scholarship for not more than 10 semesters which covers all fees, tuition, or other charges, including room and board charges. In order to maintain the scholarship the spouse must meet the academic requirements and maintain a "C" average for each semester and maintain full-time status as a student.

Proposed law provides that the spouse be entitled to a cash grant of \$250 per semester from the college or university as an allowance for books.

Proposed law requires that the scholarship can not exceed 10 semesters.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:1681(G) and 1681.2)