

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 737

Introduced by Lindstrom, 18.

Read first time January 03, 2018

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to first responders; to adopt the First
- 2 Responder Education Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the First Responder Education Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of the First Responder Education Act:

4 (1) Associate degree program means a degree program at a community
5 college, state college, or state university which typically requires
6 completion of an organized program of study of at least sixty semester
7 credit hours or an equivalent that can be shown to accomplish the same
8 goal. Associate degree program does not include a baccalaureate degree
9 program;

10 (2) Baccalaureate degree program means a degree program at a
11 community college, state college, or state university which typically
12 requires completion of an organized program of study of at least one
13 hundred twenty semester credit hours or an equivalent that can be shown
14 to accomplish the same goal;

15 (3) Community college means a public postsecondary educational
16 institution which is part of the community college system and includes
17 all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of
18 Nebraska;

19 (4) First responder means a volunteer or paid firefighter or a
20 volunteer or paid individual licensed under a licensure classification in
21 subdivision (1) of section 38-1217 who provides medical care in order to
22 prevent loss of life or an aggravation of a physiological or
23 psychological illness or injury;

24 (5) Response agency means a fire department in a municipality or an
25 out-of-hospital emergency care provider;

26 (6) State college means a public postsecondary educational
27 institution which is part of the Nebraska state college system and
28 includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the
29 State of Nebraska;

30 (7) State university means a public postsecondary educational
31 institution which is part of the University of Nebraska and includes all

1 branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of
2 Nebraska; and

3 (8) Tuition means the charges and cost of tuition as set by the
4 governing body of a state university, state college, or community
5 college.

6 Sec. 3. (1) A first responder shall be entitled to a waiver of
7 thirty percent of the resident tuition charges of any state university,
8 state college, or community college if the first responder:

9 (a) Maintains satisfactory performance with his or her response
10 agency;

11 (b) Meets all admission requirements of the state university, state
12 college, or community college; and

13 (c) Pursues studies leading to a degree that relates to a career in
14 fire protection or emergency management from an associate degree program
15 or a baccalaureate degree program.

16 The first responder may receive the tuition waiver for up to five
17 years if he or she otherwise continues to be eligible for participation.

18 (2) The state university, state college, or community college shall
19 waive thirty percent of the first responder's tuition remaining due after
20 subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and state scholarships
21 and grants for an eligible first responder during the time the first
22 responder is enrolled. To remain eligible, the first responder must
23 comply with all requirements of the institution for continued attendance
24 and award of an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree.

25 (3) An application for the tuition waiver shall include a
26 verification of the first responder's satisfactory performance as a first
27 responder. It shall be the responsibility of the first responder to
28 obtain a certificate of verification from his or her superior attesting
29 to such first responder's satisfactory performance. The first responder
30 shall include the certificate of verification when applying to the state
31 university, state college, or community college in order to obtain

1 tuition waiver upon initial enrollment.

2 (4) Within forty-five days after receipt of a completed application,
3 the state university, state college, or community college shall send
4 written notice of the first responder's eligibility or ineligibility for
5 the tuition waiver. If the first responder is determined not to be
6 eligible for the tuition waiver, the notice shall include the reason or
7 reasons for such determination and an indication that an appeal of the
8 determination may be made pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

9 Sec. 4. Each state university, state college, or community college
10 shall adopt and promulgate the procedures, rules, and regulations
11 necessary to carry out the First Responder Education Act.