

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE BILL

No. 1656 Session of  
1995

INTRODUCED BY MICOZZIE, DeLUCA, FAIRCHILD, GEORGE, BROWN,  
ARGALL, BELARDI, HERMAN, CAPPABIANCA, COLAIZZO, McCALL,  
HALUSKA, COY, GODSHALL, LYNCH, SURRA, MELIO, SATHER, MUNDY,  
JOSEPHS, RUBLEY, J. TAYLOR, KENNEY, L. I. COHEN, KUKOVICH,  
TRELLO, ITKIN, BELFANTI, O'BRIEN, HORSEY, WAUGH, WOGAN,  
RAYMOND, STABACK, KING, GRUPPO, BAKER, LUCYK, GEIST, ADOLPH,  
CORNELL, TANGRETTI, BOSCOLA, RAMOS AND SERAFINI, MAY 23, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 23, 1995

## AN ACT

1 Providing for a higher education tuition assistance program for  
2 children of firefighters, law enforcement officers and  
3 members of the ambulance services and rescue squads killed in  
4 the performance of their duties.

5 The General Assembly finds that, because firefighters, law  
6 enforcement officers and members of ambulance services and  
7 rescue squads put their lives on the line every day in the  
8 performance of their duties, this act shall provide a means of  
9 providing their dependent children with a higher education.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Short title.

13 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Emergency and  
14 Law Enforcement Officers' Dependent Children Tuition Assistance  
15 Program Act.

16 Section 2. Definitions.

1       The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
2       have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
3       context clearly indicates otherwise:

4       "Agency."   The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
5       Agency.

6       "Community colleges."   Institutions now or hereafter created  
7       pursuant to Article XIX-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
8       No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, or pursuant to  
9       the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known as the  
10      Community College Act of 1963.

11      "State-owned universities."   The 14 universities of  
12      Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education and their  
13      branches and campuses.

14      "State-related universities."   The Pennsylvania State  
15      University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and  
16      Lincoln University of the Commonwealth System of Higher  
17      Education and their branches or campuses.

18      Section 3.   Tuition assistance program.

19      (a)   Establishment.--There is hereby established a tuition  
20      assistance program for dependent children of the following:

21           (1)   Firefighters who are members of municipal fire  
22           departments, whether paid or volunteer members, who are  
23           killed in the performance of their duties.

24           (2)   Law enforcement officers of the Commonwealth, or any  
25           political subdivision thereof, who are killed in the  
26           performance of their duties.

27           (3)   Members of ambulance services and rescue squads of  
28           the Commonwealth, or any political subdivision thereof,  
29           whether paid or volunteer members, who are killed in the  
30           performance of their duties.

1 (b) Credits or payments.--The tuition assistance program  
2 shall consist of a credit or payment, by a State-owned  
3 university, State-related university or community college of  
4 this Commonwealth, of a qualified student's share of tuition,  
5 with reimbursement from the Commonwealth going directly to the  
6 State-owned or State-related university or community college for  
7 such credits or payments.

8 (c) Qualifications.--Any applicant who meets the appropriate  
9 following criteria shall be eligible for tuition assistance  
10 under this act:

11 (1) The applicant must be the dependent child of a  
12 firefighter who was a member of a municipal fire department,  
13 whether as a paid member or as a volunteer member, who was  
14 killed in the performance of his duties as certified under  
15 the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as  
16 the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits  
17 Act.

18 (2) The applicant must be the dependent child of a law  
19 enforcement officer of the Commonwealth, or a political  
20 subdivision thereof, who was killed in the performance of his  
21 duties as certified under the Emergency and Law Enforcement  
22 Personnel Death Benefits Act.

23 (3) The applicant must be the dependent child of a  
24 member of an ambulance service or rescue squad of the  
25 Commonwealth, or any political subdivision thereof, whether a  
26 paid or volunteer member, who was killed in the performance  
27 of his duties as certified under the Emergency and Law  
28 Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act.

29 (4) The applicant must be a resident of this  
30 Commonwealth.

1           (5) The applicant must be a resident in the area of one  
2           of the local sponsors of the community college, if the  
3           applicant wishes to attend a community college.

4           (6) The applicant must make an application to the agency  
5           for any other available financial assistance.

6           (7) The applicant must pursue an academic curriculum.

7           (d) Limitation.--No applicant or student shall be eligible  
8           for tuition assistance under this act for more than four  
9           academic years.

10          Section 4. Reimbursement of tuition assistance.

11          The agency shall reimburse the State-owned or State-related  
12          university or community college the amount of tuition assistance  
13          granted by it pursuant to this act. The reimbursements shall be  
14          verified by enrollment and itemized by the student or applicant  
15          for auditing purposes under this act. The reimbursements shall  
16          be made annually by the agency to the appropriate university or  
17          community college.

18          Section 5. Funding.

19          The General Assembly shall annually include in the  
20          appropriation to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance  
21          Agency in the General Appropriation Act an appropriation from  
22          the General Fund in an amount sufficient to make tuition  
23          payments pursuant to this act.

24          Section 6. Effective date.

25          This act shall take effect in 90 days.