

HOUSE BILL No. 2010

By Representative Sloan

1-7

AN ACT concerning educational benefits for dependents of deceased public safety officers; amending K.S.A. 2002 Supp. 75-4364 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2002 Supp. 75-4364 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-4364. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Kansas educational institution" means and includes area vocational schools, area vocational-technical schools, community colleges, the municipal university, state educational institutions, and technical colleges.

(2) "Public safety officer" means a law enforcement officer or a firefighter or an emergency medical services attendant.

(3) "Law enforcement officer" means a person who by virtue of office or public employment is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for violation of the laws of the state of Kansas or ordinances of any municipality thereof or with a duty to maintain or assert custody or supervision over persons accused or convicted of crime, and includes wardens, superintendents, directors, security personnel, officers and employees of adult and juvenile correctional institutions, jails or other institutions or facilities for the detention of persons accused or convicted of crime, while acting within the scope of their authority.

(4) "Firefighter" means a person who is: (1) Employed by any city, county, township or other political subdivision of the state and who is assigned to the fire department thereof and engaged in the fighting and extinguishment of fires and the protection of life and property therefrom; or (2) a volunteer member of a fire district, fire department or fire company.

(5) "Emergency medical services attendant" means a first responder, emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician-intermediate, emergency medical technician-defibrillator or a mobile intensive care technician certified by the emergency medical services board pursuant to the statutory provisions contained in article 61 of chapter 65 of Kansas Statutes Annotated.

(6) "Dependent" means (A) a birth child, adopted child or stepchild of a public safety officer or (B) any child other than the foregoing who is

1 actually dependent in whole or in part on a public safety officer and who
2 is related to the public safety officer by marriage or consanguinity.

3 (7) "State board" means the state board of regents.

4 (b) Every Kansas educational institution shall provide for enrollment
5 without charge of tuition or fees for any dependent of a public safety
6 officer who died as the result of injury sustained while performing duties
7 as a public safety officer so long as such dependent is eligible. Any such
8 dependent shall be eligible for enrollment at a Kansas educational insti-
9 tution without charge of tuition or fees for not to exceed eight semesters
10 of undergraduate instruction, or the equivalent thereof, at all such insti-
11 tutions, in the aggregate, for any such dependent.

12 (c) Subject to appropriations therefor, any Kansas educational insti-
13 tution, at which enrollment, without charge of tuition or fees, of the de-
14 pendent of a deceased public safety officer is provided for under subsec-
15 tion (b), may file a claim with the state board for reimbursement of the
16 amount of such tuition and fees. The state board shall be responsible for
17 payment of reimbursements to Kansas educational institutions upon cer-
18 tification by each such institution of the amount of reimbursement to
19 which entitled. Payments to Kansas educational institutions shall be made
20 upon vouchers approved by the state board and upon warrants of the
21 director of accounts and reports. Payments may be made by issuance of
22 a single warrant to each Kansas educational institution at which one or
23 more eligible dependents are enrolled for the total amount of tuition and
24 fees not charged eligible dependents for enrollment at that institution.
25 The director of accounts and reports shall cause such warrant to be de-
26 livered to the Kansas educational institution at which such eligible de-
27 pendent or dependents are enrolled. If an eligible dependent discontin-
28 ues attendance before the end of any semester, after the Kansas
29 educational institution has received payment under this subsection, the
30 institution shall pay to the state the entire amount which such eligible
31 dependent would otherwise qualify to have refunded, not to exceed the
32 amount of the payment made by the state in behalf of such dependent
33 for the semester. All amounts paid to the state by Kansas educational
34 institutions under this subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury
35 and credited to the state general fund.

36 (d) The state board shall adopt rules and regulations for administra-
37 tion of the provisions of this section and shall determine the qualification
38 of persons as dependents of public safety officers and the eligibility of
39 such persons for the benefits provided for under this section.

40 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2002 Supp. 75-4364 is hereby repealed.

41 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
42 publication in the statute book.

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