

HOUSE BILL NO. 88

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE EISCHEID

Introduced: 2/10/25

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to tuition waivers for spouses and dependents of certain peace officers,**
2 **firefighters, and members of the armed services; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.43.085(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A person enrolled as a student in good standing in a **state-supported**
6 [STATE SUPPORTED] educational institution in this state is entitled to a waiver of
7 undergraduate tuition and fees if

8 **(1)** the person was the spouse or dependent child of a bona fide
9 resident of the state who was

10 **(A)** [(1)] a member of the armed services and who died in the
11 line of duty or who died as a result of injuries sustained while in the line of
12 duty for the state or federal government or who was listed by the United States
13 Department of Defense as a prisoner of war or as missing in action; or

14 **(B)** [(2)] a peace officer or a member of a fire department who

died from an act arising out of and in the course of

(i) [(A)] employment as a peace officer or a firefighter;

or

(ii) [(B)] duties as a volunteer firefighter; or

(2) the person is the spouse or dependent child of a bona fide resident of the state who

(A) was a member of the armed services and received a rating of permanently and totally disabled from the federal government as a result of injuries sustained while in the line of duty for the federal government; or

(B) has been determined under AS 23.30.180 to have a permanent total disability as a result of

(i) an act arising out of and in the course of employment as a peace officer or a firefighter;

(ii) an act arising out of and in the course of duties as a volunteer firefighter; or

(iii) injuries sustained while in the line of duty for the state government while serving as a member of the armed services.

* Sec. 2. AS 14.43.085(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) "dependent child" means a person who was a dependent of a peace officer or of a member of the armed services or a fire department at the time of the peace officer's or member's death or at the time of the incident that resulted in the peace officer's or member's permanent total disability, and who is

(A) the peace officer's or member's natural or adopted child;

(B) a child in relation to whom the deceased or disabled armed services member, firefighter, or peace officer stood in loco parentis for at least three years before the peace officer's or member's death or disability;

(C) the peace officer's or member's stepchild; or

(D) the peace officer's or member's acknowledged illegitimate child;

1 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.43.085(b)(7) is amended to read:

2 (7) "spouse" means a person who was married to a peace officer or to a
3 member of the armed services or a fire department at the time of the peace officer's or
4 member's death or at the time of the incident that resulted in the peace officer's or
5 member's permanent total disability.

6 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
7 read:

8 APPLICABILITY. A waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees for a person permitted
9 under AS 14.43.085(a), as amended by sec. 1 of this Act, AS 14.43.085(b)(2), as amended by
10 sec. 2 of this Act, and AS 14.43.085(b)(7), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act, applies to tuition
11 and fees accrued by the person for an academic term beginning on or after the effective date
12 of this Act.

13 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).