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HOUSE BILL 1977

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Moscoso, Orcutt, Clibborn, Bergquist, Zeiger, Pollet, and Tarleton

Read first time 02/04/15. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a tuition and fees exemption for children and  
2 surviving spouses of certain highway workers; and amending RCW  
3 28B.15.380.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.15.380 and 2012 c 229 s 703 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing  
8 boards of the state universities, the regional universities, and The  
9 Evergreen State College shall exempt the following students from the  
10 payment of all tuition fees and services and activities fees:

11 (1) Children of any law enforcement officer as defined in chapter  
12 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or 41.24 RCW,  
13 highway worker, or Washington state patrol officer who lost his or  
14 her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty while  
15 employed by any public law enforcement agency or full-time or  
16 volunteer fire department in this state, or was a highway worker  
17 while employed by a transportation agency: PROVIDED, That such  
18 persons may receive the exemption only if they begin their course of  
19 study at a state-supported college or university within ten years of  
20 their graduation from high school; and

1 (2) Surviving spouses of any law enforcement officer as defined  
2 in chapter 41.26 RCW, firefighter as defined in chapter 41.26 or  
3 41.24 RCW, highway worker, or Washington state patrol officer who  
4 lost his or her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty  
5 while employed by any public law enforcement agency or full-time or  
6 volunteer fire department in this state, or was a highway worker  
7 while employed by a transportation agency.

8 (3) The governing boards of the state universities, the regional  
9 universities, and The Evergreen State College shall report to the  
10 education data center on the annual cost of tuition fees and services  
11 and activities fees waived for surviving spouses and children under  
12 this section. The education data center shall consolidate the reports  
13 of the waived fees and annually report to the appropriate fiscal and  
14 policy committees of the legislature.

15 (4) As used in this section, "transportation agency" means any  
16 agency, department, or division of a municipal corporation, political  
17 subdivision, or other unit of local government in this state, and any  
18 agency, department, or division of state government, having as its  
19 primary function the construction and maintenance of the highways and  
20 roads within the state of Washington. Such an agency, department, or  
21 division is distinguished from a transit agency having as one of its  
22 functions the highway maintenance, including but not limited to the  
23 state department of transportation. A transportation agency under  
24 this section does not include a government contractor.

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