



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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## **POLICE SURVIVOR'S TUITION ACT**

**House Bill 4382**

**Sponsor: Rep. James McNutt**

**Committee: Higher Education**

**Complete to 5-11-95**

### **A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4382 AS INTRODUCED 2-9-95**

The bill would create the Police Officer's Survivor Tuition Act to require Michigan public colleges to waive tuition, under certain circumstances, for children and surviving spouses of Michigan police officers who had been killed in the line of duty. The provisions of the bill would apply to a Michigan police officer's surviving spouse, and to his or her natural or adopted children who were under the age of 21 at the time of the first application for a tuition waiver. In addition to a slain officer whose death was directly caused by a traumatic injury in the line of duty, the provisions of the bill would also apply to an officer who died as the result of a disease or condition caused by a traumatic injury, but excluding an injury caused by stress, strain, or occupational disease.

In order to receive a tuition waiver, applicants would have to meet criteria for financial need, as certified by the financial aid officer of the institution of higher education. In determining financial need, death benefits attributable to the officer's death would not be counted as "family income", if other family income was below 400 percent of the poverty level, as determined under federal poverty guidelines.

Tuition would be waived only for courses applying to a degree or certificate, and a tuition waiver would be available to a student for not more than 11 semesters (or the equivalent number of terms or quarters).

Under the bill, the Department of Education would develop the procedures for implementing the tuition waiver. A tuition waiver would be granted to a student who was admitted as a full-time, part-time, or summer school student; who had been a legal resident of the state for the prior 12 consecutive months; and who applied to the department, and provided evidence that he or she was the child or surviving spouse of a slain police officer. The department would notify the appropriate college or university when an application had been approved; would reimburse each institution for the total amount of tuition waived for the preceding fiscal year; and would provide the legislature with an annual report on the number of waivers and total amount paid for that fiscal year.

The legislature would make an annual appropriation to fund the tuition waiver program.