

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5720

C 316 L 09

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Including stepchildren in tuition waivers for children of veterans and national guard members.

Sponsors: Senators Hewitt, Hobbs, Brandland and Shin.

Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
House Committee on Higher Education

Background: Institutions must waive all tuition and fees for the children and spouses of eligible veterans or National Guard members who died or became permanently and totally disabled as a result of active service or who are missing in action or prisoners of war. "Totally disabled" means a person who has been determined to be 100 percent disabled by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the waiver, a child must be a Washington resident between 17 and 26 years old. A spouse must also be a Washington resident and may not have remarried. With respect to a spouse, there is a ten-year limitation which runs from the date of the veteran's death, disability, or federal determination of POW/MIA status.

Waiver recipients may attend part-time or full-time. Total credits earned pursuant to the waiver may not exceed 200 quarter credits or the equivalent of semester credits. Tuition waivers for graduate students are not required but are encouraged.

Summary: The term "child" is defined as a biological child, adopted child, or stepchild.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	46	1	
House	97	0	(House amended)
Senate	47	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: July 26, 2009

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