

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 906

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2016

Introduced by Lindstrom, 18.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to law enforcement; to adopt the Law Enforcement Education Act.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Law Enforcement Education Act.

Sec. 2. For purposes of the Law Enforcement Education Act:

(1) Associate degree program means a degree program at a community college, state college, or state university which typically requires completion of an organized program of study of at least sixty semester credit hours or an equivalent that can be shown to accomplish the same goal. Associate degree program does not include a baccalaureate degree program;

(2) Baccalaureate degree program means a degree program at a community college, state college, or state university which typically requires completion of an organized program of study of at least one hundred twenty semester credit hours or an equivalent that can be shown to accomplish the same goal;

(3) Community college means a public postsecondary educational institution which is part of the community college system and includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of Nebraska;

(4) Law enforcement officer means any person who is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of the State of Nebraska or any political subdivision of the state for more than one hundred hours per year and who is authorized by law to make arrests;

(5) Law enforcement agency means a police department in a municipality, a sheriff's office, and the Nebraska State Patrol;

(6) State college means a public postsecondary educational institution which is part of the Nebraska state college system and includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of Nebraska;

(7) State university means a public postsecondary educational institution which is part of the University of Nebraska and includes all branches and campuses of such institution located within the State of Nebraska; and

(8) Tuition means the charges and cost of tuition as set by the governing body of a state university, state college, or community college.

Sec. 3. (1) A law enforcement officer shall be entitled to a waiver of thirty percent of the resident tuition charges of any state university, state college, or community college if the officer:

(a) Maintains satisfactory performance with his or her law enforcement agency;

(b) Meets all admission requirements of the state university, state college, or community college; and

(c) Pursues studies leading to a degree that relates to a career in law enforcement from an associate degree program or a baccalaureate degree program.

The officer may receive the tuition waiver for up to five years if he or she otherwise continues to be eligible for participation.

(2) The state university, state college, or community college shall waive thirty percent of the officer's tuition remaining due after subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and state scholarships and grants for an eligible law enforcement officer during the time the officer is enrolled. To remain eligible, the officer must comply with all requirements of the institution for continued attendance and award of an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree.

(3) An application for the tuition waiver shall include a verification of the law enforcement officer's satisfactory performance as a law enforcement officer. It shall be the responsibility of the officer to obtain a certificate of verification from his or her superior officer in such officer's law enforcement agency attesting to such officer's satisfactory performance. The officer shall include the certificate of verification when applying to the state university, state college, or community college in order to obtain tuition waiver upon initial enrollment.

(4) Within forty-five days after receipt of a completed application, the state university, state college, or community college shall send written notice of the law enforcement officer's eligibility or ineligibility for the tuition waiver. If the officer is determined not to be eligible for the tuition waiver, the notice shall include the reason or reasons for such determination and an indication that an appeal of the determination may be made pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sec. 4. Each state university, state college, or community college shall adopt and promulgate the procedures, rules, and regulations necessary to carry out the Law Enforcement Education Act.