

HB 1501 -- COLLEGE TUITION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

SPONSOR: Jamison

This bill creates the "First Responder Tuition Assistance Act", which provides 36 months' worth of a tuition waiver for first responders, defined in the bill, or their descendants, which are limited to the natural or adopted children of a first responder, who attend a public institution of higher education. The bill specifies the qualifications a first responder must possess in order to qualify for a waiver. If a first responder does not use all or part of the 36 months of the tuition waiver, the first responder can transfer all or some of the months to an eligible spouse or descendant, and the bill specifies the qualifications a spouse or descendant must possess in order to qualify for the tuition waiver. The death of a first responder in the line of duty that occurs after submission of an application for a waiver will not disqualify the first responder's otherwise eligible spouse or descendant from receiving the tuition waiver. The bill requires the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to create the rules to implement the waiver program.