

# HOUSE BILL NO. 4954

September 16, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Woolford, Aragona, Borton, DeBoyer and Robinson  
and referred to Committee on Families and Veterans.

A bill to amend 1996 PA 195, entitled  
"Police officer's and fire fighter's survivor tuition grant act,"  
by amending the title and sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 (MCL 390.1241,  
390.1242, 390.1243, and 390.1244), the title and sections 1 and 4  
as amended by 2012 PA 470 and sections 2 and 3 as amended by 2021  
PA 127.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 TITLE  
2 An act to provide for a tuition grant program at state public

institutions of higher education for children and surviving spouses of Michigan police officers, ~~and~~ fire fighters, **and medical examiners** killed in the line of duty; to provide for the administration of that tuition grant program; to prescribe certain powers and duties of state officers, agencies, and departments; and to provide for an appropriation.

Sec. 1. This act ~~shall be known and~~ may be cited as the "police officer's, ~~and~~ fire fighter's, **and medical examiner's** survivor tuition grant act".

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Academic year" means the period from September 1 of a calendar year to August 31 of the next calendar year.

(b) "Child" means an individual who is a natural or adopted child of a deceased Michigan police officer, ~~or~~ deceased Michigan fire fighter, **or deceased Michigan medical examiner** and who was under the age of 21 at the time of the Michigan police officer's, ~~or~~ Michigan fire fighter's, **or Michigan medical examiner's** death.

(c) "Department" means the department of ~~treasury~~ **lifelong education, advancement, and potential**.

(d) "Eligible student" means a child or surviving spouse of a Michigan police officer, ~~or~~ Michigan fire fighter, **or Michigan medical examiner** who was or is killed in the line of duty.

(e) "Eligible tuition" means the tuition charged by a state institution of higher education for an undergraduate class.

(f) "Gift aid" means formal scholarships or grants from sources that do not require repayment.

(g) "Killed" means that the Michigan police officer's, ~~or~~ Michigan fire fighter's, **or Michigan medical examiner's** death is the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury incurred in

1 the line of duty.

2 (h) "Line of duty" means an action that a Michigan police  
3 officer, ~~or Michigan fire fighter, or Michigan medical examiner~~ is  
4 obligated or authorized to perform by rule, regulation, condition  
5 of employment or service, or law, including, but not limited to, a  
6 social, ceremonial, or athletic function that the Michigan police  
7 officer, ~~or Michigan fire fighter, or Michigan medical examiner~~ is  
8 assigned to or compensated for by the public agency ~~he or she the~~  
9 **Michigan police officer, Michigan fire fighter, or Michigan medical**  
10 **examiner** serves.

11 (i) "Michigan police officer" means a sheriff or sheriff's  
12 deputy of a sheriff's department in this state; village or township  
13 marshal of a village or township in this state; officer of the  
14 police department of any city, village, or township in this state;  
15 officer of the Michigan state police; or any other police officer  
16 or law enforcement officer trained and licensed or certified under  
17 the Michigan commission on law enforcement standards act, 1965 PA  
18 203, MCL 28.601 to 28.615.

19 (j) "Michigan fire fighter" means a member including volunteer  
20 members and members paid on call of a fire department, or other  
21 organization that provides fire suppression and other fire-related  
22 services, of a city, township, village, or county who is  
23 responsible for or is in a capacity that includes responsibility  
24 for the extinguishment of fires. Michigan fire fighter does not  
25 include a person whose job description, duties, or responsibilities  
26 do not include direct involvement in fire suppression.

27 (k) **"Michigan medical examiner" means an individual appointed**  
28 **and serving as a medical examiner, deputy medical examiner, or**  
29 **medical examiner investigator under 1953 PA 181, MCL 52.201 to**

1   **52.216.**

2           (**l**) ~~(k)~~—"Occupational disease" means a disease that routinely  
3   constitutes a special hazard in, or is commonly regarded as  
4   concomitant of, the Michigan police officer's, ~~or~~ Michigan fire  
5   fighter's, **or Michigan medical examiner's** occupation.

6           (**m**) ~~(l)~~—"State institution of higher education" means a public  
7   community or junior college established under section 7 of article  
8   VIII of the state constitution of 1963 or part 25 of the revised  
9   school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1601 to 380.1607, or a state  
10   university described in section 4, 5, or 6 of article VIII of the  
11   state constitution of 1963.

12          (**n**) ~~(m)~~—"Survivor's tuition grant" means a tuition grant  
13   awarded to an eligible student under this act.

14          (**o**) ~~(n)~~—"Traumatic injury" means a wound or the condition of  
15   the body caused by external force, including, but not limited to,  
16   an injury inflicted by bullet, explosive, sharp instrument, blunt  
17   object or other physical blow, fire, smoke, chemical, electricity,  
18   climatic condition, infectious disease, radiation, or bacteria, but  
19   excluding an injury resulting from stress, strain, or occupational  
20   disease.

21          (**p**) ~~(o)~~—"Undergraduate class" means a class or course that  
22   provides a student with academic credit applicable toward a  
23   bachelor or associate degree from a state institution of higher  
24   education.

25          Sec. 3. (1) The police officer's, ~~and~~ fire fighter's, **and**  
26   **medical examiner's** survivor tuition program is created, to be  
27   administered by the department.

28          (2) Beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year, the department  
29   shall provide a survivor's tuition grant in an amount determined by

1 the department under subsection (3) to each eligible student if all  
2 of the following requirements are met:

3 (a) The student applies, qualifies, and is admitted as a full-  
4 time, part-time, or summer school student in a program of study  
5 leading to a degree or certificate at a state institution of higher  
6 education.

7 (b) The student is a legal resident of ~~the~~**this** state for at  
8 least the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding ~~his or her~~  
9 **the student's** application. For an individual who is a dependent of  
10 ~~his or her~~**the individual's** parent, residency status ~~shall be~~**is**  
11 determined by the parent's residency. For an individual who is not  
12 a dependent, residency status is determined in the same manner as  
13 under 20 USC 1070 to 1070h.

14 (c) The student applies to the department for a survivor's  
15 tuition grant under this act and provides evidence satisfactory to  
16 the department that ~~he or she~~**the student** is an eligible student,  
17 that the course or courses for which ~~he or she~~**the student** is  
18 seeking a survivor's tuition grant meet the requirements of  
19 subsection (3), and that ~~he or she~~**the student** meets the other  
20 requirements of this section.

21 (d) If the student is a child of a Michigan police officer, ~~or~~  
22 Michigan fire fighter, **or Michigan medical examiner** who was killed  
23 in the line of duty, ~~he or she~~**the student** applies for a survivor's  
24 tuition grant under subdivision (c) for the first time before the  
25 age of 26.

26 (e) The financial aid officer at the state institution of  
27 higher education certifies to the department that the student's  
28 eligible tuition expenses exceed the total of all other gift aid  
29 available to the student; certifies the amount of that excess; and

1 certifies that the tuition rate or rates used to determine the  
2 amount of that excess are not greater than the rate or rates  
3 charged to residents of this state.

4 (f) The student maintains satisfactory academic progress, as  
5 defined by the state institution of higher education, for each term  
6 or semester in which ~~he or she~~ **the student** is enrolled. The  
7 satisfactory progress definition used by an institution for federal  
8 student assistance programs under 20 USC 1070 to 1070h is  
9 acceptable for the purposes of this act.

10 (g) The student has not received a bachelor's degree and has  
11 received tuition assistance under this act for fewer than 124  
12 semester credits or 180 term credits at an institution of higher  
13 education.

14 (h) The student has not received a survivor's tuition grant in  
15 more than a total of 9 semesters or the equivalent number of terms  
16 or quarters.

17 (3) The amount of a survivor's tuition grant in an academic  
18 year is the amount of the **eligible** student's eligible tuition in  
19 that academic year less all other gift aid available to the  
20 eligible student. The department may reduce the amount of a  
21 survivor's tuition grant if it determines that the tuition rate or  
22 rates used by the state institution of higher education under  
23 subsection (2)(e) to determine the amount of the survivor's tuition  
24 grant are greater than the tuition rate or rates charged by the  
25 institution in that academic year to residents of this state.

26 Sec. 4. (1) Beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year, if ~~it~~  
27 **the department** receives an application under section 3(2)(c) and  
28 subject to subsection (4), the department shall determine whether  
29 the applicant and the courses for which a survivor's tuition grant

1 is sought meet the requirements of section 3 and, if so, shall  
2 approve the application and notify the state institution of higher  
3 education that ~~it~~**the department** has approved the application.

4 (2) All of the following apply if the department approves a  
5 survivor's tuition grant under subsection (1):

6 (a) The department shall disburse the survivor's tuition grant  
7 money to the state institution of higher education that the student  
8 attends, according to a payment procedure established by the  
9 department.

10 (b) The institution shall only apply money received under  
11 subdivision (a) on a student's behalf to the student's outstanding  
12 indebtedness for eligible tuition.

13 (3) The department annually shall report to the legislature  
14 the number of individuals who received survivor's tuition grants in  
15 the preceding academic year and the total amount of those grants;  
16 which state institutions of higher education those students  
17 attended; and the total amount disbursed to each institution.

18 (4) If ~~it~~**the department** receives an application under section  
19 3(2)(c), the department shall submit the evidence provided by the  
20 applicant that ~~he or she~~**the applicant** is an eligible student to  
21 the department of state police for a determination of whether the  
22 Michigan police officer's, ~~or~~ Michigan fire fighter's, **or Michigan**  
23 **medical examiner's** death was the direct and proximate result of a  
24 traumatic injury incurred in the line of duty. The department shall  
25 not award a survivor's tuition grant unless the department of state  
26 police determines that the death was the direct and proximate  
27 result of a traumatic injury incurred in the line of duty.