

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revisions, Fee Waivers for Veteran Recipients of the Purple Heart (AB279)

June 30, 2023

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 396.5443 mandates the Board of Regents to grant a waiver of registration fees, laboratory fees, and all other mandatory fees assessed to eligible veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been awarded the Purple Heart less any federal educational benefits received by the student. A person to whom the fee waiver is awarded shall be deemed a bona fide resident of Nevada for tuition purposes. Existing Board policy under *Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 14* recognizes the provisions contained in NRS 396.5443.

During the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature, [Assembly Bill 279](#) was approved, amending NRS 396.5443. AB 279 requires the Board of Regents to waive the payment of registration fees, laboratory fees and other mandatory fees for a student who is the child of a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States awarded a Purple Heart, provided the student graduated from a Nevada high school and that the veteran is a bona fide resident of Nevada or was at the time of their death. The waiver may be used by the student for ten years after the student turns 18 or, if the student enrolls prior to turning 18, ten years from that enrollment date. Existing provisions for the amount of the waiver remain unchanged and apply to the child and to the veteran.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 14* to align with AB 279, passed during the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature, which expands the current waiver to a child of a veteran who has been awarded the Purple Heart.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal is brought forward to revise Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 14*) regarding the Purple Heart Fee Waiver to align Board policy with AB 279, which was passed by the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature and is effective July 1, 2023.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase access to higher education)
- Success (Improve student success)
- Close Institutional Performance Gaps
- Workforce (Meet workforce needs in Nevada)
- Research (Increase solutions-focused research)
- Coordination, Accountability, and Transparency (Ensure system coordination, accountability, and transparency)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

This policy revision supports student access and success in higher education by widening the financial support available to children of our military community.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The revisions to Board policy align with AB 279, passed during the 2023 Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None have been presented.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports the proposed policy revision.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 14*
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Other: _____
X Fiscal Impact: Yes X No _____
Explain: There is a potential fiscal impact in terms of forgone revenue by the NSHE institutions. However, since the number of children of Purple Heart recipients who graduated from a Nevada high school is unknown, the amount of fees to be waived cannot be determined.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, SECTION 14

Fee Waivers for Veteran Recipients of the Purple Heart

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 14. Fee Waivers for Veteran Recipients of the Purple Heart

1. A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been awarded the Purple Heart *or a child of such a veteran if the veteran is a bona fide resident of Nevada or was a bona fide resident of Nevada at the time of death, and the child of the veteran graduated from a Nevada high school*, shall be permitted to register for credit without registration fees, laboratory fees, or other mandatory fees provided that the student:
 - a. Completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
 - b. Provides a Certificate of Eligibility for Veterans Administration educational benefits and/or the Veterans Administration Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment benefit.
2. The waiver shall be granted to a student who enrolls in a program leading to a certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's, or professional degree.
3. A student to whom the fee waiver is awarded shall be deemed a bona fide resident of Nevada for tuition purposes.
4. The institution may request such documentation as it deems necessary to verify the student is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States and a recipient of a Purple Heart award *or the child of such veteran*.
5. *An eligible child of a veteran awarded the Purple Heart may use the waiver:*
 - a. *For 10 years after the child reaches the age of 18; or*
 - b. *If the child enrolls at an institution prior to turning 18, for 10 years after the date of such enrollment.*
6. [~~5-~~]The amount of the waiver must be equal to:
 - a. If a student is entitled to receive any federal educational benefit for a semester, the balance of registration fees, laboratory fees, and other mandatory fees assessed against the student that remain unpaid after the student's account has been credited with the full amount of the federal education benefits to which the student is entitled for that semester; or
 - b. If a student is not entitled to receive any federal education benefits for a semester, the full amount of the registration fees, laboratory fees, and any other mandatory fees assessed against the student for that semester.
7. [~~6-~~]Definitions.
 - c. For purposes of this Section, other mandatory fees include student fees, special course fees, and differential program fees, as defined in this chapter.
 - d. Federal education benefits include federal grants awarded to the student based on completion of the FAFSA, Veterans Administration education benefits and/or the Veterans Administration Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefit.