



CHAPTER 115D
ARTICLE 3 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT

N.C.G.S. § 115D-39.

Student tuition and fees.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2025-56, ss. 1(g), 2(l) — twentieth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 01:21 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 3ec1f2fc8e231e566694ec45 - 5918a0cb327d160da91bf478 - 95e07a4bee848fda
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§ 115D-39(a) The State Board of Community Colleges shall fix and regulate all tuition and fees charged to students for applying to or attending any institution pursuant to this Chapter.

The receipts from all student tuition and fees, other than student activity fees, shall be State funds and shall be deposited as provided by regulations of the State Board of Community Colleges.

The legal resident limitation with respect to tuition, set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and G.S. 116-143.3, shall apply to students attending institutions operating pursuant to this Chapter, except as follows:

- (1) When an employer other than the employer of a qualifying federal services member, as that term is defined in G.S. 116-143.3, pays tuition for an employee to attend an institution operating pursuant to this Chapter and when the employee works at a North Carolina business location, the employer shall be charged the in-State tuition rate.
- (2) A community college may charge in-State tuition to up to one percent (1%) of its out-of-state students, rounded up to the next whole number, to accommodate the families transferred by business, the families transferred by industry, or the civilian families of qualifying federal services member transferred to a permanent duty station, consistent with the provisions of G.S. 116-143.3, into the State.

- (3) A refugee who lawfully entered the United States and who is living in this State shall be deemed to qualify as a domiciliary of this State under G.S. 116-143.1(a)(1) and as a State resident for community college tuition purposes as defined in G.S. 116-143.1(a)(2).
- (4) A nonresident of the United States who has resided in North Carolina for a 12-month qualifying period and has filed an immigrant petition with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service shall be considered a State resident for community college tuition purposes.

§ 115D-39(a1) In addition, federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and rescue and lifesaving personnel whose permanent duty station is within North Carolina and who do not otherwise qualify for tuition waivers under G.S. 115D-39.5(a)(3) shall also be eligible for the State resident community college tuition rate for courses that support their organizations' training needs and are approved for this purpose by the State Board of Community Colleges.

§ 115D-39(b) In addition, any person lawfully admitted to the United States who satisfied the qualifications for assignment to a public school set out under G.S. 115C-366 and graduated from the public school to which the student was assigned shall also be eligible for the State resident community college tuition rate. This subsection does not make a person a resident of North Carolina for any other purpose.

§ 115D-39(c) In addition, a person sponsored under this subsection who is lawfully admitted to the United States is eligible for the State resident community college tuition rate. For purposes of this subsection, a North Carolina nonprofit entity is a charitable or religious corporation as defined in G.S. 55A-1-40 that is incorporated in North Carolina and that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a civic league incorporated in North Carolina under Chapter 55A of the General Statutes that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. A nonresident of the United States is sponsored by a North Carolina nonprofit entity if the student resides in North Carolina while attending the community college and the North Carolina nonprofit entity provides a signed affidavit to the community college verifying that the entity accepts financial responsibility for the student's tuition and any other required educational fees. Any North Carolina nonprofit entity that sponsors a nonresident of the United States under this subsection may sponsor no more than five nonresident students annually under this subsection.

This subsection does not make a person a resident of North Carolina for any other purpose.

§ 115D-39(d)

A community college may add the cost of textbooks purchased at the college's bookstore to the tuition rates established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for all purposes associated with billing the armed services for the enrollment of members of the armed services, as defined in G.S. 116-143.3, if the student's branch of the armed services permits the addition of textbooks to tuition costs in its tuition assistance program. The college may retain the funds attributable to the cost of the textbooks.

§ 115D-39(e)

A United States citizen shall be eligible to receive the State resident community college tuition rate for the school year immediately following the student's graduation from high school if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The individual satisfied the qualifications for assignment to a public school, as provided in G.S. 115C-366.
- (2) The individual was enrolled in a North Carolina public school unit for the entirety of the final school year before receiving a high school diploma from the public school unit.
- (3) The individual was unable, due to lack of evidence, to establish residency for tuition purposes through the centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority.

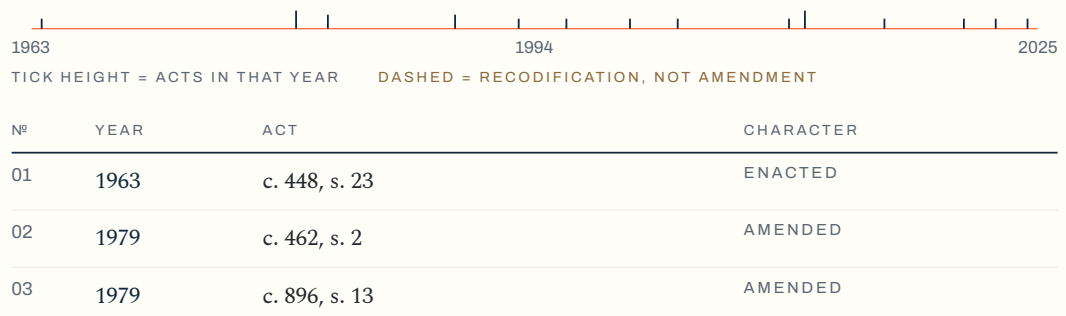
END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
20 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



04	1979	2nd Sess., c. 1130, s. 1	AMENDED
05	1981	c. 157, s. 4	AMENDED
06	1981	1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1034, s. 58	AMENDED
07	1989	c. 752, s. 85	AMENDED
08	1989	1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1044, s. 25(a)	AMENDED
09	1993	c. 561, s. 50(a)	AMENDED
10	1996	2nd Ex. Sess., c. 18, s. 17.1(a)	AMENDED
11	2000	S.L. 2000-67, s. 9.8	AMENDED
12	2003	S.L. 2003-284, ss. 8.16(b), 8.16A(a)	AMENDED
13	2010	S.L. 2010-31, s. 8.4(b)	AMENDED
14	2011	S.L. 2011-145, s. 8.12(d)	AMENDED
15	2011	S.L. 2011-183, s. 80	AMENDED
16	2011	S.L. 2011-184, s. 1	AMENDED
17	2016	S.L. 2016-94, s. 10.4(b)	AMENDED
18	2021	S.L. 2021-133, s. 1	AMENDED
19	2023	S.L. 2023-134, s. 8A.10(a)	AMENDED
20	2025	S.L. 2025-56, ss. 1(g), 2(l)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II

7 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 116-143.1	(a)	"respect to tuition, set forth in"
G.S. 116-143.3	(a)	"set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and"
G.S. 116-143.1(a)(1)	(a)(3)	"a domiciliary of this State under"
G.S. 116-143.1(a)(2)	(a)(3)	"college tuition purposes as defined in"
G.S. 115D-39.5(a)(3)	(a1)	"otherwise qualify for tuition waivers under"
G.S. 115C-366	(b)	"a public school set out under"
G.S. 55A-1	(c)	"or religious corporation as defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115D-39 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115D-39(a) (2025).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1963, c. 448, s. 23; 1979, c. 462, s. 2; c. 896, s. 13; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1130, s. 1; 1981, c. 157, s. 4; 1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1034, s. 58; 1989, c. 752, s. 85; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1044, s. 25(a); 1993, c. 561, s. 50(a); 1996, 2nd Ex. Sess., c. 18, s. 17.1(a); 2000-67, s. 9.8; 2003-284, ss. 8.16(b), 8.16A(a); 2010-31, s. 8.4(b); 2011-145, s. 8.12(d); 2011-183, s. 80; 2011-184, s. 1; 2016-94, s. 10.4(b); 2021-133, s. 1; 2023-134, s. 8A.10(a); 2025-56, ss. 1(g), 2(l).)

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