

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2022 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

## **Senate Bill 228**

BY SENATORS RUCKER, BALDWIN, LINDSAY, JEFFRIES,

PHILLIPS, ROMANO, CAPUTO, AND STOLLINGS

[Introduced January 12, 2022]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §18B-10-7d, relating to providing tuition and fee waivers for terms of service  
3 completed in West Virginia as AmeriCorps volunteer; specifying programs, conditions,  
4 required minimum hours of service, and limitation of semesters applicable; defining  
5 nominal value; providing that tuition and fee waivers are in addition to others permitted;  
6 authorizing governing boards to establish limits; and authorizing legislative rulemaking for  
7 certain purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 10. FEES AND OTHER MONEY COLLECTED AT STATE INSTITUTIONS OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION.**

**§18B-10-7d. Tuition waivers for national service volunteers serving in West Virginia.**

1 (a) The governing boards shall make provision for institutions under their respective  
2 jurisdictions to award tuition and fee waivers for undergraduate and graduate courses at state  
3 institutions of higher education beginning in the 2022 fall semester or term for any student who  
4 has completed service in West Virginia as a participant in an AmeriCorps State, National, VISTA,  
5 or Senior Corps program in accordance with the following:

6 (1) The student has applied and been accepted at the institution;

7 (2) The student has filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and has accepted  
8 all offers of state and federal financial assistance for which he or she is eligible: *Provided*, That  
9 the student is not required to accept offers of student loan or work study assistance;

10 (3) The student has accepted the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award;

11 (4) The student has successfully completed his or her term of service as defined by the  
12 AmeriCorps program and consistent with regulations of the Corporation for National and  
13 Community Service, the service was completed in West Virginia, and the Certification of Service

14 Letter is provided to the state institution of higher education as documentation of the completion  
15 of service;

16 (5) The student shall be awarded a tuition and fee waiver for one semester if the student  
17 successfully completed a term of service consisting of at least 600 hours of service, or if the  
18 student successfully completed multiple terms of service that in the aggregate consist of at least  
19 600 hours of service. The student shall be awarded a tuition and fee waiver for two semesters if  
20 the student successfully completed a term of service consisting of at least 1,200 hours of service,  
21 or if the student successfully completed multiple terms of service that in the aggregate consist of  
22 at least 1,200 hours. The hours of service used to qualify for an award may not be again used to  
23 qualify for another award;

24 (6) A student may successfully complete additional terms of service while enrolled at a  
25 state institution of higher education or between semesters and provide the documentation  
26 specified in subdivision (4) of this subsection to the state institution for waivers of tuition and fees  
27 in accordance with this section;

28 (7) The total number of tuition and fee waivers that may be granted to a student pursuant  
29 to this section is limited to eight semesters of enrollment at the undergraduate or graduate levels  
30 combined;

31 (8) The nominal value of a tuition and fee waiver is the remaining cost of tuition and fees  
32 after the state and federal financial assistance accepted by the student in accordance with  
33 subdivision (2) of this subsection has been applied: *Provided*, That if the subsequent application  
34 of the student's Segal AmeriCorps Education Award causes the total of the student's financial  
35 assistance, waivers, and grants to exceed the student's cost of attendance, the nominal value of  
36 the tuition and fee waiver may be further reduced to reach the cost of attendance; and

37 (9) The award of a tuition and fee waiver is contingent upon the student meeting the  
38 academic progress standards established by the institution.

39           (b) The award of tuition and fee waivers granted pursuant to this section is in addition to  
40 the tuition and fee waivers otherwise permitted in this article.

41           (c) The governing boards may establish any limitations on the provisions of this section  
42 as they consider proper.

43           (d) The commission and the council may propose rules for legislative approval, pursuant  
44 to the provisions of §29A-3A-1 et seq. of this code, if necessary, to provide for uniformity in the  
45 administration and tracking of awards made pursuant to this section.