ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 34

BY: SHEDRICK of the SENATE

and

THOMPSON of the HOUSE

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING SECTION 6, CHAPTER 375, O.S.L. 1989 (70 O.S. SUPP. 1990, SECTION 2403), WHICH RELATES TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS' ACADEMIC SCHOLARS ACT; MAKING CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR LEARNING DISABLED AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED STUDENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 6, Chapter 375, O.S.L. 1989 (70 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 2403), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2403. A. No person shall be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program unless the person:

1. Has complied with all of the rules and regulations promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Act, Section 2401 et seq. of this title, for the award, regulation, and administration of scholarships; and

2. Qualifies, or has qualified after July 1, 1988, as one of the following:

a. Category I:

(1) a National Merit Scholar, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(2) a National Achievement Scholar, which shall mean a student designated as a National Achievement Scholarship Program For Outstanding Negro Students Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(3) a National Hispanic Scholar, which shall mean a student designated as a National Hispanic Scholars Award Program Scholar by the College Board,

(4) a Presidential Scholar, which shall mean a student selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars pursuant to the Presidential Scholars Program administered by the United States Department of Education,

(5) an Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall mean a student who is a resident of the State of Oklahoma whose American College Testing Program score or whose Scholastic Aptitude Test score falls within the 99.5 to 100.0 percentile levels as administered in the State of Oklahoma and whose grade point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as determined by the State Regents; provided, that the percentile levels shall be referenced to the student population as a whole and separately for the following subdivisions of the population: Male, Female, Black non-Hispanic, Native American, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific Islander, and White non-Hispanic,

b. Category II:

(1) a National Merit Scholar Finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Scholar Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(2) a National Achievement Scholar Finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students Scholar Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(3) a National Merit Scholar Semi-finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Scholar Semi-finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(4) a National Achievement Scholar Semi-finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students Scholar Semi-finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(5) a National Hispanic Scholar Semi-finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Hispanic Scholar Award Program Semi-finalist Scholar by the College Board,

(6) an Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall mean a student who is a resident of the State of Oklahoma whose American College Testing Program score or whose Scholastic Aptitude Test score falls within the 99.0 to 99.49 percentile levels as administered in the State of Oklahoma and whose grade point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as determined by the State Regents; provided, that the percentile levels

shall be referenced to the student population as a whole and separately for the following subdivisions of the population: Male, Female, Black non-Hispanic, Native American, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific Islander, and White non-Hispanic, and

c. Category III:

(1) a National Merit Commended Student, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(2) a National Achievement Commended Student, which shall mean a student designated as a National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

(3) a National Hispanic Honorable Mention Student, which shall mean a student designated as a National Hispanic Scholars Award Program Honorable Mention Scholar by the College Board, or

(4) an Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall mean a student who is a resident of the State of Oklahoma whose American College Testing Program score or whose Scholastic Aptitude Test score falls within the 98.0 to 98.99 percentile levels as administered in the State of Oklahoma and whose grade point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as determined by the State Regents; provided, that the percentile levels shall be referenced to the student population as a whole and separately for the following

subdivisions of the population: Male, Female, Black non-Hispanic, Native American, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific Islander, and White non-Hispanic.

B. No person shall be eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program unless the person is enrolled as a full-time student at a public or private accredited institution of higher education in Oklahoma.

C. The Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program shall provide three levels of scholarship awards, based on the following criteria:

1. If the student qualifies in one of the categories listed in subparagraph a of paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section, the student shall receive a scholarship in an amount equivalent to the full amount of costs of all enrollment fees, tuition and other fees, room and board, and all required textbooks or materials for up to five (5) years of undergraduate and/or graduate study at an accredited public or private institution of higher education in Oklahoma as provided in subsection ~~D~~ E of this section.

2. If the student qualifies in one of the categories listed in subparagraph b of paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section, the student shall receive a scholarship in an amount equivalent to one-half (1/2) of the amount of the costs of all enrollment fees, tuition and other fees, room and board, and all required textbooks or materials for up to five (5) years of undergraduate and/or graduate study at an accredited public or private institution of higher education in Oklahoma as provided in subsection ~~D~~ E of this section.

3. If the student qualifies in one of the categories listed in subparagraph c of paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section, the student shall receive a scholarship in an amount equivalent to one-fourth (1/4) of the amount of the costs of all enrollment fees,

tuition and other fees, room and board, and all required textbooks or materials for up to five (5) years of undergraduate and/or graduate study at an accredited public or private institution of higher education in Oklahoma as provided in subsection ~~D~~ E of this section.

D. If a person identifies himself or herself as learning disabled or physically disabled or both and requests consideration for a scholarship under the Academic Scholars Program by means other than standard testing procedures, the State Regents shall determine what means of assessment are appropriate and upon the basis of said assessment results, determine what level of award, if any, shall be made.

E. 1. If the student is attending an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the total funding for the scholarship provided in this section, exclusive of any internships, shall not exceed the costs for items specified in subsection C of this section at the institution attended as determined annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

2. If the student is attending a private institution of higher education, the total funding for the scholarship provided in this section, exclusive of any internships, shall not exceed the costs for items specified in subsection C of this section at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of comparable type which has the highest general enrollment fees of its type institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education as determined annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 12th day of March, 1991.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1991.

Speaker of the House of Representatives