

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

SENATE BILL NO. 322

BY: ROBERTS

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; CREATING THE "OKLAHOMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM"; REQUIRING THE OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; STATING PROVISIONS OF THE PROGRAM; SPECIFYING LIMITATIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS; DIRECTING STATE REGENTS TO PROMULGATE RULES; CREATING THE "OKLAHOMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS TRUST FUND"; DESIGNATING THE STATE REGENTS AS TRUSTEES OF THE FUND; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES OF TRUSTEES; MAKING APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE REGENTS FOR THE FUND; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN OPERATIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2501 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma International Scholars Program. The Program shall provide scholarship assistance for not to exceed one (1) year to students who:

1. Are residents of this state;

2. Are classified as juniors or graduate students in degree programs at institutions of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and

3. Will reside outside North America for at least six months for the purpose of study pursuant to the degree program.

B. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, criteria for determination of the size and number of awards and for consideration of applicants shall be promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, who shall have rule-making authority in all matters pertaining to the administration of the Program. Awards shall be distributed in approximately equal proportion for study in the following geographical areas:

1. Asia;

2. Europe;

3. Africa; and

4. South and Central America, including Mexico.

Preference shall be given to students who demonstrate reasonable acquisition of the language of the area where they plan to study and declare intent to return to this state as their place of residence.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2502 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created a trust fund to be known as the "Oklahoma International Scholars Trust Fund." The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be the trustees of said Trust Fund.

B. The State Regents shall utilize said Trust Fund to implement the provisions of Section 1 of this act.

C. The Trust Fund principal shall consist of monies the Legislature appropriates or transfers to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the Trust Fund and any monies or assets contributed to the Trust Fund from any other source, public or private.

D. Notwithstanding other provisions of law, income and investment return on Trust Fund principal shall accrue to the Trust Fund for use as provided by authorization of the trustees for the purposes provided in Section 1 of this act. No such income or investment return, or principal, shall be used for administrative expenses; expenses incurred by the State Regents in the administration of the Trust Fund and of the Oklahoma International Scholars Program established by this act shall be paid from monies appropriated to the State Regents for their general operations.

E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall discharge their duties as trustees of the Oklahoma International Scholars Trust Fund in the same manner as they discharge such duties as trustees of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Trust Fund pursuant to Section 3954 et seq. of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 3. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the Capital Preservation and Economic Enhancement Fund of the State Treasury the sum of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) for transfer to the Oklahoma International Scholars Trust Fund.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative July 1, 1991.

SECTION 5. 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.

43-1-062

WHT