STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 787 By: Morgan, Crutchfield, Horner, Kerr, Williams and Henry of the Senate

and

Wells of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

(Higher education - creating the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Act - effective date - emergency)

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2701 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2702 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program. The purpose of the Program is to enhance economic growth in the state through increasing the number of college graduates. All students who meet the criteria set forth in the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program, who have completed college preparatory curriculum upon graduation from high school, and who intend to pursue studies in this state leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree or to pursue studies in a postsecondary vocational-technical program or course offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement

between an area vocational-technical school and an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education will be eligible for payment from the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Trust Fund of up to four (4) years of their undergraduate general enrollment fees at an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or tuition for enrollment in postsecondary programs of the area vocational-technical districts.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2703 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program and to qualify for payment of general enrollment fees or tuition pursuant to Section 4 of this act, a student shall:

1. Be a resident of this state;

2. Have graduated from a high school accredited by the State Board of Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics;

3. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and as required for the institution that the student will be attending, provided, no payment from the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Trust Fund shall be made on behalf of a student admitted into an institution of higher education by special admission standards; and

4. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a postsecondary vocational-technical program or course offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement between an area vocational-technical school and an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

B. To retain eligibility while pursuing the postsecondary program in which enrolled, the student shall:

1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; and

2. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program by a student.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2704 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Subject to the availability of funds, the general enrollment fees for which a student eligible for the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program is obligated at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and tuition for any eligible student enrolled in a public postsecondary vocational-technical program or course offered pursuant to a cooperative agreement as set forth in Section 2 of this act shall be satisfied by allocation from the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Trust Fund.

B. Satisfaction of general enrollment fees or tuition allowed by this section shall not be allowed for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a two-year program at an area vocational-technical school, an associate degree at a junior college or a baccalaureate program at a regional or comprehensive university. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other postsecondary units which shall be the equivalent of full-time enrollment for which Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program benefits will apply.

C. Subject to the provisions of subsection D of this section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all eligible

applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when making awards.

D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to such Tuition Incentive Program student. For all academic years, students who have previously received awards under the provisions of the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Act and who have continued at all times to fulfill the requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to this program shall be given an absolute priority for continued financial support by the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program superior to any students who are applying for such benefits for the first time.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2705 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Each school year, every eighth- through twelfth-grade student in the public schools of this state shall be apprised, together with the student's parent, custodial parent, or guardian, of the opportunity provided by the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Education shall develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness program for making students and parents aware of the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3953.2 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 Tuition Incentive Trust Fund". The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be the trustees of said Trust Fund. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations.

B. The State Regents shall utilize said Trust Fund to implement the provisions of Sections 1 through 4 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 Sections 1 through 4 of this act. The State Regents may also utilize the Trust Fund principal for the purposes provided in Sections 1 through 4 of this act. Except as otherwise provided by law, no such income, 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 Tuition Incentive Program established by this act shall be paid from monies appropriated to the State Regents coordinating board for their general operating budget.

E. The Regents shall adopt rules for accomplishing transfer of funds from the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Trust Fund to the appropriate institutional Educational and General Operations Revolving Funds, as provided in Section 3901 of this title, to cover general enrollment fees or tuition for eligible students pursuant to this act. Allocations from the Trust Fund may be made only for the purpose of covering the general enrollment fees or tuition of eligible students. No portion of the Trust Fund may be used or

allocated for administrative or operating expenses of any higher education institution.

SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 8. 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.

47-1-15130 JB 6/11/15