EHB 1201

THE STATE SENATE
Wednesday March 17, 1999

ENGROSSED

House Bill No. 1201

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1201 - By: ROSS of the House and HORNER of the Senate.

(schools - amending 70 O.S., Sections 2403 and 2404 - Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program - requiring certain reports - effective date - emergency)

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 2403, as amended by Section 23, Chapter 324, O.S.L. 1992 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, 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:

(Bold face denotes Committee Amendments)

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

(3) 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,

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

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

(6) a National Hispanic Honorable Mention Awardee, which shall mean a student designated as a

National Hispanic Scholars Award Program Honorable Mention Awardee by the College Board,

(7) 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,

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

(2) a National Achievement 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,

(3) a National Hispanic Semi-finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Hispanic Scholar Award Program Semi-finalist 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 99.0 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) 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 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 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 E of this section.

D. If a person identifies himself or herself as a student with a disability 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. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 2404, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2404. A. Scholarships awarded under the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any limitation on the number of scholarships to be awarded in any year other than the amount of funds available for the scholarship program and the number of eligible applicants. If funds are not sufficient to provide scholarships for all eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall award scholarships in the following order:

1. Students who meet the criteria provided in subparagraph a of paragraph 2 of subsection A of Section ~~6~~ 2403 of this ~~act~~ title;

2. Students who meet the criteria provided in subparagraph b of paragraph 2 of subsection A of Section ~~6~~ 2403 of this ~~act~~ title;

3. Students who meet the criteria provided in subparagraph c of paragraph 2 of subsection A of Section ~~6~~ 2403 of this ~~act~~ title.

B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the time a scholarship is awarded to a student, set aside in the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Trust Fund funds for the full five-year commitment made to such eligible scholar. For all academic years, students who have previously received academic scholarships under the provisions of this act and who have continued at all times to fulfill the requirements for eligibility to receive academic scholarships provided in this act shall be given an absolute priority for continued financial support by the Oklahoma

State Regents' Academic Scholars Program superior to any students who are applying for such academic scholarships for the first time.

C. In addition to the qualifications specified in Section ~~6~~ 2403 of this ~~act~~ title, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may adopt additional criteria for selection of awards which may include, but are not necessarily limited to, consideration of high school academic performance and personal interviews. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall ensure that exit interviews are conducted with participants in the Academic Scholars Program, and shall annually report on the number of graduates who stay in state and who leave Oklahoma. In addition, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are hereby authorized to determine a maximum number of awards or a maximum amount of funding which may go to nonresident students. Such maximum limitations shall not exceed ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ twenty-five percent (25%) of the awards or amount of funding in any category provided in paragraph 2 of subsection A of Section ~~6~~ 2403 of this ~~act~~ title.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. 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.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 03-15-99 - DO PASS, As Amended.