

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. _____

By: 196

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Sections 626.4 and 626.7, which relate to the Oklahoma Higher Education Tuition Aid Act; modifying eligibility requirements; making certain references gender neutral; removing limit on certain award; authorizing Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to set limits on certain award; authorizing Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to set award amounts based on need analysis system; deleting certain award amounts; deleting certain definition; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 626.4, is amended to read as follows:

Section 626.4 State tuition aid grants shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any limitation on the number to be awarded in any year other than the amount of appropriations available therefor. The institution involved may appropriately schedule work to permit recipients to earn the amount of said tuition grants.

Definitions of full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students shall be established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. ~~Provided, no student shall be eligible for a tuition aid grant under this act unless he is enrolled in a minimum of six (6) semester hours.~~

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 626.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 626.7 A college tuition aid grant shall be awarded annually to each eligible, qualified full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an institution of collegiate grade or postsecondary institution providing ~~not less than~~ a ~~one-year~~ program of training to prepare students for employment in a recognized occupation in Oklahoma approved or accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or appropriate postsecondary agency in accordance with the following:

1. Eligibility. Each full-time or part-time resident student ~~as previously defined~~ will be eligible to receive a grant in an amount as provided in paragraph 2 of this section. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall determine by rules and regulations the maximum number of semesters a student may be eligible for grants. No student shall be eligible for grants unless ~~he~~ the student maintains such minimum standards of academic performance as are required by the institution in which ~~he~~ the student is enrolled.

In the event a student for any reason ceases to continue to be enrolled during the course of an academic year, ~~he~~ the student shall cease to be eligible for tuition aid.

2. Amount of grant. The amount of tuition aid grant to any student under this act for any semester shall represent a percentage not greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the tuition and enrollment fees normally charged to residents of the State of Oklahoma by the institution of attendance ~~and shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) in one (1) academic year.~~ The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall determine by rules the annual maximum award amount based on an annual assessment of funds availability.

The percentage of aid shall be ~~determined by the amount of effective income of the eligible student.~~ ~~Effective income of an~~

~~independent student shall be the income of the student and the spouse of the student, if applicable. Effective income of a dependent student shall be the income of the student and the spouse of the student, if applicable, and the parents or legal guardian of the student based on a need analysis system that is consistent with federal student financial aid regulations. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall set an annual award payment schedule upon which determination of the percentage is based shall be based upon a maximum grant of seventy-five percent (75%) of tuition and fees with grants based on lower percentages of tuition and fees being awarded to students who demonstrate lower financial need. , with an income range of from Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) at income intervals of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) as follows:~~

EFFECTIVE	PERCENTAGE
INCOME	OF AID
BELOW	
\$ 7,000	75%
8,000	70%
9,000	65%
10,000	60%
11,000	55%
12,000	50%
13,000	45%
14,000	40%
15,000	35%
16,000	30%
17,000	25%
18,000	20%
19,000	15%
20,000	10%

~~"Effective income" shall be defined as total taxable and nontaxable income less a per-household-member cost-of-living allowance. The allowance shall be calculated by dividing the current Oklahoma low median family income by the current median household size published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are hereby authorized to adopt rules and regulations to permit exceptions to the determination of effective income in cases of unusual financial hardship.~~

Financial assistance received under this act will be considered as part of a student's financial aid package.

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.

47-1-613

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