

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 704

By: Horner

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 3, Chapter 353, O.S.L. 1992, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 119, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 2603), which relates to Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; updating statutory reference; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 353, O.S.L. 1992, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 119, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2603. A. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for payment of general enrollment fees or tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

1. Be a resident of this state;
2. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;
3. Have graduated within the previous three (3) years from a high school accredited by the State Board of Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, irrespective of honor points, for all work attempted in grades nine through twelve;
4. Have satisfied the high school curricular requirements adopted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and required for students participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point

average in the core curriculum courses, irrespective of honor points; provided that students who attended a high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this requirement by participating in a program approved by the State Regents for remediation of high school curricular deficiencies;

5. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a private institution, have satisfied admission standards as determined by the private institution; provided, no student participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

6. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement between an area vocational-technical school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, or a private institution of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title; and

7. Have established financial need during the ninth-grade year or tenth-grade year if enrolled during the tenth grade according to the standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; a student who satisfies the financial need criteria during the ninth- or tenth-grade when he or she begins participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall not later be denied participation in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program on grounds that the student does not meet the financial need criteria.

B. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher learning 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 and the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education shall promulgate regulations relating to maintenance of eligibility under this act, Section 2601 et seq. of this title, by a student.

D. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to this act shall be the first students eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining students' award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7) semesters of high school coursework.

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.

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