

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2738

By: Deutschendorf, Adkins,
Balkman, Calvey, DeWitt,
Peters, Tibbs and
Winchester of the House

and

Helton of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2612, which relates to eligibility for the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program; modifying eligibility requirements to allow certain students to participate in the Program; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2612, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2612. A. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program and qualify for a scholarship pursuant to Section 2613 of this title, a student shall:

1. Be a resident of this state for a minimum of two (2) calendar years immediately prior to high school graduation. Provided, a student who is a dependent of a member of the armed services stationed in Oklahoma shall be eligible as a resident of the state for purposes of this section as long as the member is stationed in the state in full-time military service and under military orders;

2. 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 and have been awarded a standard diploma as provided for in Section 11-103.6 of this title;

3. Have a graduate ranking in the top fifteen percent (15%) of the student's high school class and have earned not less than a 3.25 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale;

4. Have attained a score of 26 or higher on the American College Test;

5. Meet the income eligibility level, which is the student's parent(s) income from taxable and nontaxable sources which shall not be more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per year;

6. 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 of higher learning located within the state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title or a postsecondary vocational-technical program or course offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement between a technology center school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, have satisfied the admission standards for that private institution or vocational-technical program;

7. 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 or course offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement between a technology center 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;

8. Have made application for state and federal tuition aid programs; and

9. Not have been adjudicated as a delinquent for an offense defined in Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes as an exception to a nonviolent offense or convicted as an adult of an

offense defined in Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes as an exception to a nonviolent offense.

B. A student who has graduated from a private school not accredited by the State Board of Education shall be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program and qualify for a scholarship by meeting the eligibility criteria in paragraphs 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of subsection A of this section.

C. Payment of scholarships shall begin for eligible students enrolling in a higher learning program who graduate from high school during the 2002-2003 school year and shall continue for eligible students graduating thereafter.

~~C.~~ D. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

1. Maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale;

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

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

~~D.~~ E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program by a student.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate