

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE BILL 1636

By: Henry

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; authorizing certain programs eligible for funding contingent on passage of certain joint resolution; creating the Educational Facilities Grant Program; stating composition; stating purpose; authorizing award of grants to eligible public educational facilities contingent upon certain funding; creating the Helping Oklahoma Promote Education (HOPE) Scholarship Program; stating purpose; providing eligibility criteria; providing for payment of HOPE scholarships contingent upon certain funding; providing amount of HOPE scholarship; directing State Regents to take into consideration other sources of financial aid and provide HOPE scholarship in amount not to exceed total cost of attendance; providing certain comparable scholarship amount for private institutions; stating requirements for retention of scholarship; prohibiting scholarship payments for courses in excess of requirements of a baccalaureate program; providing for codification; and providing a conditional effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2630 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Contingent upon availability of funds as authorized by the Legislature from the Lottery for Education Revolving Fund, created pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. _____ of the 2nd Session of the 48th Legislature, the following programs are hereby eligible for funding:

1. Early childhood programs, which shall include expenses incurred by school districts in order to comply with the requirement to offer a full six-hour day of kindergarten as provided for in Section 18-108 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. Health insurance for school district employees, which shall include one hundred percent (100%) of the premium amount for the Healthchoice (Hi) option plan for an individual offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board;

3. The Educational Facilities Grant Program, as provided in Section 2 of this act; and

4. The Helping Oklahoma Promote Education (HOPE) Scholarship Program, as provided in Section 3 of this act.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2631 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Educational Facilities Grant Program, to be administered by the Educational Facilities Grant Committee. The committee shall be composed of the Chancellor of Higher Education, or designee, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee, and the State Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, or designee.

B. The purpose of the program is to fund capital projects for public educational facilities including institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and public schools under the governance of district boards of education.

C. The committee is hereby authorized to award grants to eligible public educational facilities based on criteria established by the committee and contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature from the Lottery for Education Revolving Fund.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2632 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Helping Oklahoma Promote Education (HOPE) Scholarship Program to be administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The purpose of the

program is to increase the number of Oklahomans enrolled in higher education and to increase the number of Oklahomans with college degrees.

B. To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship award, an individual shall:

1. Meet residency requirements as established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

2. Satisfy admission standards as established by an institution within 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 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

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

4. Meet the income eligibility level, defined as the individual's total family income from taxable and nontaxable sources of not more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) per year.

C. Payment of HOPE scholarships shall begin for eligible individuals enrolling in a higher learning program beginning the fall semester after funds are made available pursuant to Section 1 of this act. A HOPE scholarship shall be in an amount equivalent to resident tuition which an individual who is eligible pursuant to the HOPE Scholarship Program is obligated to pay at an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. The State Regents shall take into consideration other grants, scholarships, and financial aid an individual receives and provide a HOPE scholarship in an amount not to exceed the total cost of attendance in determining the amount of the HOPE scholarship.

D. Individuals enrolled at private institutions of higher learning shall be eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship in an amount equivalent to the amount of resident tuition for which the

individual would be eligible if the individual were enrolled in a comparable program at a comparable institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. Comparability shall be determined by the State Regents.

E. To retain eligibility for a HOPE scholarship an individual must maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution of higher learning in which the individual is enrolled. HOPE scholarship payments shall not be allowed for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective upon certification of election returns favoring passage of the Statutory Referendum proposed in Senate Joint Resolution No. _____ of the 2nd Session of the 48th Oklahoma Legislature.

48-2-2882

KDB

6/12/2015 11:06:12 AM