

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE BILL 351

By: Wilcoxson of the Senate

and

Coleman of the House

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Sections 38 and 39, Chapter 320, O.S.L. 1999, as amended by Sections 17 and 18, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2000 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Sections 2611 and 2612), which relate to the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program; deleting certain criteria; modifying time period when scholarship benefit paid; modifying eligibility requirements; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 38, Chapter 320, O.S.L. 1999, as amended by Section 17, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2000 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 2611), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2611. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to provide a scholarship awarded by the state to students each student who ~~meet~~ meets the criteria set forth in the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Act, ~~who have graduated from high school with a standard diploma,~~ and who ~~are~~ is intending to pursue studies at an institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a private institution of higher learning leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree, ~~or are pursuing studies in~~ a postsecondary vocational-technical program or course 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, ~~a scholarship in.~~ The scholarship shall be in an amount

equivalent to the resident tuition for the ~~first two (2)~~ freshman and junior years of enrollment at an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education ~~paid for by the state~~, or the first two (2) years of attendance if the student is enrolled in a two-year vocational-technical program. For purposes of the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Act the freshman year shall include the first thirty academic units in which a student is enrolled and the junior year shall include the sixty-first through the ninetieth academic units in which a student is enrolled.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 39, Chapter 320, O.S.L. 1999, as amended by Section 18, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2000 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, 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)~~ four (4) calendar years immediately prior to high school graduation or completion of a high school curriculum. 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 and have earned not less than a 3.25 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in the core curriculum as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of this title, or have received the equivalent of a high school education by means other than the public schools within the previous three (3) years;

~~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. 3. Have attained a score of 26 or higher on the American College Test;

5. 4. 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.~~ 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 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 an area vocational-technical 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.~~ 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 or course 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;

~~8.~~ 7. Have made application for state and federal tuition aid programs; and

~~9.~~ 8. 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. Payment of scholarships shall begin for eligible students enrolling in a higher learning program ~~who graduate from high school~~ during the ~~2002-2003~~ 2003-2004 academic school year and shall continue for eligible students ~~graduating~~ thereafter.

C. 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. 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 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

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.

48-1-341

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