## STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 596

By: Leftwich

## COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to higher education; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to adopt policy allowing certain students to be eligible for enrollment and waiver of nonresident tuition; establishing criteria; requiring compliance with certain admission criteria; prohibiting disqualification on certain basis from certain scholarships or financial aid; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

## 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 3242 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall adopt a policy which allows a student to enroll in an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and allows a student to be eligible for a waiver of nonresident tuition if the student:
- 1. Graduated from a public or private high school in this state or successfully completed the General Educational Development test in this state; and
- 2. Resided in this state with a parent or guardian for at least two (2) years prior to:
  - a. graduation from high school, or
  - b. successful completion of the General Educational Development test.
- B. To be granted the tuition waiver provided for in subsection A of this section, an eligible student shall:

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- 1. Satisfy admission standards as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the appropriate type of institution and have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and
  - 2. If the student is without lawful immigration status:
    - a. file an affidavit with the institution stating that
      the student has filed an application or has a petition
      pending with the Immigration and Naturalization
      Service to legalize the student's immigration status,
      or
    - b. file an affidavit with the institution stating that the student will file an application to legalize his or her immigration status at the earliest opportunity the student is eligible to do so.
- C. Any student that meets the criteria prescribed in subsections A and B of this section shall not be disqualified on the basis of the student's immigration status from any scholarships or financial aid provided by this state.
- 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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