

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 908

By: Capps of the Senate

and

Jones of the House

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 625.5, which relates to the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Loan and Scholarship Fund; modifying maximum scholarship grant amounts; making language gender neutral; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 625.5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 625.5 ~~(a)~~ A. An applicant may be eligible for the award of a scholarship ~~when the following conditions are met upon demonstration that the applicant:~~

- ~~(1)~~ 1. ~~That he desires~~ Desires a scholarship to any accredited school of medicine or school of osteopathic medicine in the United States of America;
- ~~(2)~~ 2. ~~That he is~~ Is a bona fide resident of Oklahoma;
- ~~(3)~~ 3. ~~That his~~ Has personal financial resources ~~are~~ such that, in the absence of scholarship aid, ~~he~~ will be unable to pursue the program of study ~~which he desires~~ desired;
- ~~(4)~~ 4. ~~That he is~~ Is a person of good moral character;
- ~~(5)~~ 5. ~~That he has~~ Has successfully completed the program of instruction prerequisite for admission to the program of study provided for in ~~this act~~ Section 625.1 et seq. of this title and has applied for admission to a medical school;
- ~~(6)~~ 6. ~~That he has~~ Has capacity to profit by the course of study for which ~~he~~ the applicant seeks aid;
- ~~(7)~~ 7. ~~That he desires~~ Desires to practice medicine in a rural community in Oklahoma; and
- ~~(8)~~ 8. ~~That he submits~~ Submits proof that ~~he~~ the applicant has not accepted or will not accept any other scholarship assistance which has a conflicting service obligation requirement.

In determining an applicant's capacity to profit by the course of study ~~he desires~~ desired, the Commission shall consider ~~his~~ the applicant's previous scholastic record, the results of examinations conducted under the provisions of ~~this act~~ Section 625.1 et seq. of this title, and the results of interviews and such other tests or examinations which the Commission may deem advisable. In establishing an applicant's financial need, the Commission shall conduct a thorough and complete investigation of the financial resources of the applicant and ~~his~~ family.

~~(b)~~ B. The amount of each scholarship grant shall not exceed ~~Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00)~~ Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) per academic year for students engaged in their first year of study, ~~or equivalent number of terms completed in an education program in a given period of months.~~ The amount of each scholarship grant shall not exceed ~~Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00)~~ per academic year for students engaged in their, second, third or fourth year of study, or equivalent number of terms completed in an education program in a given period of months.

~~(e)~~ C. The method of payment of funds to each recipient of a scholarship grant shall be in accordance with rules formulated by the Commission governing the grants for each type of scholarship.

~~(d)~~ D. Each scholarship is renewable annually for the number of years required to complete the course of study in which the recipient is engaged. The Commission shall grant such an annual renewal only upon the recipient's application and upon the Commission's finding that the recipient:

~~(1)~~ 1. ~~The recipient has~~ Has completed successfully the work of the preceding year and presented evidence that ~~he~~ the recipient is a student in good standing;

~~(2)~~ 2. ~~He remains~~ Remains a resident of Oklahoma; and

~~(3)~~ 3. ~~His~~ Is in a financial situation ~~continues to warrant that warrants~~ the award of a scholarship under the standards set forth in ~~this act~~ Section 625.1 et seq. of this title.

~~(e)~~ E. The Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor and Legislature on the activities of the Commission. This report shall include the names of the recipients of the scholarships, the amount of the scholarship awards, an accounting of the funds expended on scholarships and on the administration of the program and a budget requesting the funds necessary for the operation of the Commission. The report shall also include an accounting of repayments of scholarships, whether by services or in cash including interest.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. 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 Senate the 26th day of February, 2004.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of April, 2004.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives