

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1492

By: Morgan (Fred), Wesselhoft,
Duncan and Nance of the
House

and

Paddack of the Senate

(higher education - waiver of tuition - Oklahoma
National Guard - effective date -
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 2283 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A student who is a member of the Oklahoma National Guard
shall be eligible for a full resident tuition waiver, provided the
student:

1. Is a member of the Oklahoma National Guard at the beginning
of the semester for which the student is applying for the waiver or
by the waiver application deadline, as determined by the
institution;

2. Has been certified as a member in good standing by the
Adjutant General of the Oklahoma National Guard;

3. Is an Oklahoma resident;

4. Does not currently hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree;
and

5. Meets all admission and retention requirements of an
institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

B. A student meeting all of the eligibility requirements as set forth in subsection A of this section shall be awarded a full resident tuition waiver, provided the student is enrolled in a:

1. Program of study leading to an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree;
2. Minimum of six (6) hours in the fall or spring semester or a minimum of three (3) hours in the summer term. The student may meet this minimum enrollment requirement either at a single institution or more than one institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and
3. Has submitted a plan of completion of a degree with the Oklahoma National Guard.

C. The waiver of resident tuition provided for in this section shall cover resident tuition for all courses for which resident tuition is charged. The student shall be responsible for all other fees that may be charged.

D. The waiver of resident tuition provided for in this section shall not be awarded for programs leading to a certificate, continuing education courses, or career technology courses which are not counted towards a degree program at another institution. The tuition waiver shall not apply to professional programs which do not require an earned degree.

E. A student may receive a resident tuition waiver as provided for in this section for a maximum of eighteen (18) semester credit hours each semester, for up to six (6) years from the date of first application.

F. Concurrently enrolled high school students shall not be eligible for the tuition waiver as provided for in this section.

G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section, including establishing responsibilities of the institutions and the Oklahoma National Guard, providing for the allocation of funding,

and setting requirements that the student submit certain documents confirming eligibility and status in the Oklahoma National Guard with the institutions.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2284 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, no resident or nonresident tuition shall be charged to children of an Oklahoma resident killed while mobilized by any branch of the military in support of Operation Global War on Terror. The waiver of resident tuition and nonresident tuition shall be limited to a period of five (5) years. The military campaign Operation Global War on Terror shall include any of the following military operations:

1. Enduring Freedom;
2. Iraqi Freedom;
3. Noble Eagle;
4. Winter Freeze;
5. Joint Forge;
6. Joint Guardian;
7. Southern Watch; and
8. Desert Spring.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2285 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

If a student is called to active military service during a term in which the student has not completed an amount of work sufficient to receive a grade, an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall refund the tuition and fees paid by the student for the current term or the institution shall waive the amount of tuition and fees paid from the amount owed for tuition and fees for a future term following the tour of duty of the student.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

SECTION 5. 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 15th day of March, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the Senate