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**THE STATE SENATE**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2006**

**Committee Substitute for**  
**Senate Bill No. 1993**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1993 - By: MORGAN, TAYLOR,  
CRUTCHFIELD, LAWLER and RABON of the Senate and INGMIRE of the  
House.

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2001,  
Section 2605, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 134, O.S.L.  
2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 2605), which relates to  
the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; increasing  
family income eligibility level; 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 2605, as  
amended by Section 1, Chapter 134, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005,  
Section 2605), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2605. A. Each school year, every fifth- through ninth-  
grade student in the public schools of this state shall be apprised,  
together with the student's parent, custodial parent, or guardian,  
of the student's opportunity for access to higher learning under the  
Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. The Oklahoma State Regents  
for Higher Education and the State Board of Education shall develop,  
promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to be utilized in  
making students and parents aware of the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
Access Program.

1           B. On a form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
2 Education, every public school district shall designate at least one  
3 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program contact person, who shall be  
4 a counselor or teacher, at each public school site in this state in  
5 which eighth-, ninth- or tenth-grade classes are taught. When  
6 requested by the State Regents, the State Board of Education shall  
7 assist the State Regents to ensure the designation of contact  
8 persons.

9           C. Students who qualify on the basis of financial need  
10 according to the standards and provisions promulgated by the  
11 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be given the  
12 opportunity throughout the eighth-, ninth-, and tenth-grade years to  
13 enter into participation in the program by agreeing to, throughout  
14 the remainder of their school years:

- 15           1. Attend school regularly and do homework regularly;
- 16           2. Refrain from substance abuse;
- 17           3. Refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts;
- 18           4. Have school work and school records reviewed by mentors  
19 designated pursuant to the program;
- 20           5. Provide information requested by the Oklahoma State Regents  
21 for Higher Education or the State Board of Education; and
- 22           6. Participate in program activities.

1 The contact person at the school shall maintain the agreements,  
2 which shall be executed on forms provided by the Oklahoma State  
3 Regents for Higher Education and managed according to regulations  
4 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and  
5 the contact person shall monitor the student's compliance with the  
6 terms of the agreement. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
7 Education are authorized to process student agreements and verify  
8 compliance with the agreements. Students failing to comply with the  
9 terms of the agreement shall not be eligible for the awards provided  
10 in Section 2604 of this title.

11 D. A student shall not be found to be in financial need for  
12 purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if the  
13 income from taxable and nontaxable sources of the student's  
14 parent(s) exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per year.  
15 Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, a student entering the  
16 program shall not be found to be in financial need for purposes of  
17 the program if the income from taxable and nontaxable sources of the  
18 student's parent(s) exceeds Seventy Five Thousand Dollars  
19 (\$75,000.00) per year. The student's financial qualification shall  
20 be certified by the contact person at the school or by the Oklahoma  
21 State Regents for Higher Education on the agreement form provided by  
22 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; the form shall be

1 retained in the student's permanent record and a copy forwarded to  
2 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

3 E. Agreements shall be witnessed by the student's parent,  
4 custodial parent, or guardian, who shall further agree to:

5 1. Assist the student in achieving compliance with the  
6 agreements;

7 2. Confer, when requested to do so, with the school contact  
8 person, other school personnel, and program mentors;

9 3. Provide information requested by the Oklahoma State Regents  
10 for Higher Education or the State Board of Education; and

11 4. Assist the student in completing forms and reports required  
12 for program participation, making applications to institutions and  
13 schools of higher learning, and filing applications for student  
14 grants and scholarships.

15 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
16 promulgate rules for the determination of student compliance with  
17 agreements made pursuant to this section.

18 G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
19 designate personnel to coordinate tracking of program records for  
20 the years when students participating in the program are still in  
21 the public schools, provide staff development for contact persons in  
22 the public schools, and provide liaison with the State Board of

1 Education and local organizations and individuals participating in  
2 the program.

3 H. The school district where an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
4 Program student is enrolled when the student begins participation in  
5 the program and any subsequent school district where the student  
6 enrolls shall forward information regarding the student's  
7 participation in the program to a school to which the student  
8 transfers upon the school's request for the student's records.

9 I. Students participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
10 Access Program shall provide their social security number or their  
11 student identification number used by their school to the Oklahoma  
12 State Regents for Higher Education. The Regents shall keep the  
13 numbers confidential and use them only for administrative purposes.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

15 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
16 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
17 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
18 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-15-06 - DO  
20 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.