

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE BILL 1492

By: Morgan (Fred)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; providing for a waiver of tuition for students who served in certain military campaigns; stating eligibility requirements; providing for award of tuition waiver for students that meet certain criteria; stating coverage of tuition waiver; limiting tuition waiver to certain programs; providing maximum benefit; defining certain operations; providing for a tuition waiver for children of Oklahoma residents killed while serving in certain military operation; limiting time allowed for tuition waiver; requiring institutions to refund or provide tuition credit to students called to active military service; providing for codification; providing an effective date; 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 2283 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A student who has served at least one (1) tour on active duty with any branch of the military in support of Operation Global War on Terror shall be eligible for a full resident tuition waiver, provided the student:

1. Has served on active duty with any branch of the military in support of Operation Global War on Terror within five (5) years prior to enrolling at an institution;

2. Is an Oklahoma resident;

3. Does not currently hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree;

and

4. 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; and

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.

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. For purpose of this section, 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 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 military operations listed in Section 1 of this act.

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.

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