STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE BILL 1664 By: Carey

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; providing for a waiver of tuition for certain students who served in certain military campaigns; stating eligibility requirements; providing maximum benefit; providing for award of tuition waiver for students that meet certain criteria; stating coverage of tuition waiver; limiting tuition waiver to certain programs; defining certain operations; 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:

1. Served at least one tour on active duty with any branch of the military in support of Operation Global War on Terror within ten (10) years prior to applying for the tuition waiver;

2. Exhausted all tuition aid resources available through the Montgomery GI Bill, Chapter 30 of Title 38 of the U.S.C.;

3. Is an Oklahoma resident;

4. Not completed a baccalaureate or graduate degree; and

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

shall be eligible for a full resident tuition waiver for purposes of completing a degree program the student began while using Montgomery GI bill resources. The student may receive the tuition waiver for a maximum of eighteen (18) semester credit hours

each semester for up to two (2) years from the date of first application or until the student has completed the degree program whichever occurs first.

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, a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate 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. For purposes 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. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

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.

50-1-5724 KB 01/19/05