STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2087 By: Terrill

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to education; amending 68 O.S. 2001, Section 1004, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 416, O.S.L. 2002 (68 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 1004), which relates to apportionment of gross production tax; redirecting a portion of the tax to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Sections 2603, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 2002 and 2605, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 134, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Sections 2603 and 2605), which relate to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; modifying eligibility requirements; allowing eligibility for students in certain educational programs; modifying public awareness and participation requirements; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2001, Section 1004, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 416, O.S.L. 2002 (68 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 1004), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1004. Beginning July 1, 2002, the gross production tax provided for in Section 1001 of this title is hereby levied and shall be collected and apportioned as follows:

1. For all monies collected from the tax levied on asphalt or ores bearing uranium, lead, zinc, jack, gold, silver or copper:

a. eighty-five and seventy-two one-hundredths percent (85.72%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer of the state to be placed in the General Revenue Fund of the state and used for the general expense of state government, to be paid out pursuant to direct appropriation by the Legislature,

b. seven and fourteen one-hundredths percent (7.14%) of the sum collected from natural gas and/or casinghead gas or asphalt or ores bearing uranium, lead, zinc, jack, gold, silver or copper shall be paid to the various county treasurers to be credited to the County Highway Fund as follows: Each county shall receive a proportionate share of the funds available based upon the proportion of the total value of production from such county in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and

c. seven and fourteen one-hundredths percent (7.14%) shall be allocated to each county as provided for in subparagraph b of this paragraph and shall be apportioned, on an average daily attendance per capita distribution basis, as certified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the school districts of the county where such pupils attend school regardless of residence of such pupil, provided the school district makes an ad valorem tax levy of fifteen (15) mills for the current year and maintains twelve (12) years of instruction;

2. For all monies collected from the tax levied on natural gas and/or casinghead gas at a tax rate of seven percent (7%) pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 1001 of this title:

a. eighty-five and seventy-two one-hundredths percent (85.72%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer of the state to be placed in the General Revenue Fund of the state and used for the general expense of state government, to be paid out pursuant to direct appropriation by the Legislature,

b. seven and fourteen one-hundredths percent (7.14%) of the sum collected from natural gas and/or casinghead

gas shall be paid to the various county treasurers to be credited to the County Highway Fund as follows: Each county shall receive a proportionate share of the funds available based upon the proportion of the total value of production from such county in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and

c. seven and fourteen one-hundredths percent (7.14%) shall be allocated to each county as provided for in subparagraph b of this paragraph and shall be apportioned, on an average daily attendance per capita distribution basis, as certified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the school districts of the county where such pupils attend school regardless of residence of such pupil, provided the school district makes an ad valorem tax levy of fifteen (15) mills for the current year and maintains twelve (12) years of instruction;

3. For all monies collected from the tax levied on natural gas and/or casinghead gas at a tax rate of four percent (4%) pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 1001 of this title:

a. seventy-five percent (75%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer of the state to be placed in the General Revenue Fund of the state and used for the general expense of state government, to be paid out pursuant to direct appropriation by the Legislature,

b. twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) of the sum collected from natural gas and/or casinghead gas shall be paid to the various county treasurers to be credited to the County Highway Fund as follows: Each county shall receive a proportionate share of the funds available based upon the proportion of the total

value of production from such county in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and

c. twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) shall be allocated to each county as provided for in subparagraph b of this paragraph and shall be apportioned, on an average daily attendance per capita distribution basis, as certified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the school districts of the county where such pupils attend school regardless of residence of such pupil, provided the school district makes an ad valorem tax levy of fifteen (15) mills for the current year and maintains twelve (12) years of instruction;

4. For all monies collected from the tax levied on natural gas and/or casinghead gas at a tax rate of one percent (1%) pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 1001 of this title:

a. fifty percent (50%) of the sum collected from natural gas and/or casinghead gas shall be paid to the various county treasurers to be credited to the County Highway Fund as follows: Each county shall receive a proportionate share of the funds available based upon the proportion of the total value of production from such county in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and

b. fifty percent (50%) shall be allocated to each county as provided for in subparagraph a of this paragraph and shall be apportioned, on an average daily attendance per capita distribution basis, as certified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the school districts of the county where such pupils attend school regardless of residence of such pupil, provided the school district makes an ad valorem tax

levy of fifteen (15) mills for the current year and maintains twelve (12) years of instruction;

5. For all monies collected from the tax levied on oil at a tax rate of seven percent (7%) pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 1001 of this title:

a. twenty-five and seventy-two one-hundredths percent (25.72%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be placed in the Common Education Technology Revolving Fund created in Section 41.29c of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

b. twenty-five and seventy-two one-hundredths percent (25.72%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be placed in the Higher Education Capital Revolving Fund created in Section 41.29d of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

c. twenty-five and seventy-two one-hundredths percent (25.72%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be placed in the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Revolving Fund created in Section 41.29e of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

d. four and twenty-eight one-hundredths percent (4.28%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be apportioned to the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund of the State Treasury,

e. four and twenty-eight one-hundredths percent (4.28%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be apportioned to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund,

f. seven and fourteen one-hundredths percent (7.14%) of the sum collected from oil shall be paid to the various county treasurers, to be credited to the County Highway Fund as follows: Each county shall

receive a proportionate share of the funds available based upon the proportion of the total value of production from such county in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and

g. seven and fourteen one-hundredths percent (7.14%) shall be allocated to each county as provided in subparagraph f of this paragraph and shall be apportioned, on an average daily attendance per capita distribution basis, as certified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the school districts of the county where such pupils attend school regardless of residence of such pupil, provided the school district makes an ad valorem tax levy of fifteen (15) mills for the current year and maintains twelve (12) years of instruction;

6. For all monies collected from the tax levied on oil at a tax rate of four percent (4%) pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 1001 of this title:

a. twenty-two and one-half percent (22.5%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be placed in the Common Education Technology Revolving Fund created in Section 41.29c of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

b. twenty-two and one-half percent (22.5%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be placed in the Higher Education Capital Revolving Fund created in Section 41.29d of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

c. twenty-two and one-half percent (22.5%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be placed in the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Revolving Fund created in Section 41.29e of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

d. three and seventy-five one-hundredths percent (3.75%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be apportioned

to the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund of the State Treasury,

e. three and seventy-five one-hundredths percent (3.75%) shall be paid to the State Treasurer to be apportioned to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund,

f. twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) of the sum collected from oil shall be paid to the various county treasurers, to be credited to the County Highway Fund as follows: Each county shall receive a proportionate share of the funds available based upon the proportion of the total value of production from such county in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and

g. twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) shall be allocated to each county as provided in subparagraph f of this paragraph and shall be apportioned on an average daily attendance per capita distribution basis, as certified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the school districts of the county where such pupils attend school regardless of residence of such pupil, provided the school district makes an ad valorem tax levy of fifteen (15) mills for the current year and maintains twelve (12) years of instruction; and

7. For all monies collected from the tax levied on oil at a tax rate of one percent (1%) pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 1001 of this title:

a. fifty percent (50%) of the sum collected shall be paid to the various county treasurers, to be credited to the County Highway Fund as follows: Each county shall receive a proportionate share of the funds available based upon the proportion of the total value of

production from such county in the corresponding month of the preceding year, and

b. fifty percent (50%) shall be allocated to each county as provided for in subparagraph a of this paragraph and shall be apportioned on an average daily attendance per capita distribution basis, as certified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the school districts of the county where such pupils attend school regardless of residence of such pupil, provided the school district makes an ad valorem tax levy of fifteen (15) mills for the current year and maintains twelve (12) years of instruction.

Provided, notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the total amounts deposited to the Common Education Technology Revolving Fund, the Higher Education Capital Revolving Fund, the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Revolving Fund, the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund and the Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of this section shall not exceed One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars ($150,000,000.00) in any fiscal year. All sums in excess of One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars ($150,000,000.00) in any fiscal year which would otherwise be deposited in such funds shall be placed by the State Treasurer in the ~~General Revenue Fund of the state~~ Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund created in Section 3953.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2603, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2603. A. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the first

semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

1. Be a resident of this state;

2. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;

3. a. Have graduated within the previous three (3) years from a high school accredited by the State Board of Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in grades nine through twelve, ~~or~~

b. Have graduated within the previous three (3) years from a high school not accredited by the State Board of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in grades nine through twelve and have achieved a composite score of 22 or higher on the American College Test, or

c. Have satisfactorily completed within the previous three (3) years an educational program that was provided through a means other than a public or private school and have achieved a composite score of 22 or higher on the American College Test;

4. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that meets college admission requirements~~; provided the~~. The curriculum requirements shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-English language or technology courses that meet the college admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point average in the core curriculum courses~~; provided that~~

~~students~~. Students who attended a high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or students who were educated by other means and were not offered all the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the State Regents for remediation of high school curricular deficiencies;

5. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a private institution, have satisfied admission standards as determined by the private institution; provided, no student participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

6. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement between a technology center school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, or a private institution of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title; and

7. Have established financial need during the eighth-grade year, ninth-grade year or tenth-grade year according to the standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education~~; a~~. For a student who is educated by other means, financial need shall be established between the ages of thirteen (13) and fifteen (15). A student who satisfies the financial need criteria upon initial participation in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program ~~during the eighth, ninth, or tenth grade~~ shall not later be denied participation in the Oklahoma Higher

Learning Access Program on grounds that the student does not meet the financial need criteria.

B. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; and

2. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under this act by a student.

D. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to this act shall be the first students eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining students' award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7) semesters of high school coursework.

SECTION 3. 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 <u>and private</u> schools of this state <u>and students who are educated by other means and are in the equivalent of the fifth- through ninth-grade</u> 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.

B. On a form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, every public school district shall designate at least one Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program contact person, who shall be a counselor or teacher, at each public school site in this state in which eighth-, ninth- or tenth-grade classes are taught. When requested by the State Regents, the State Board of Education shall assist the State Regents to ensure the designation of contact persons. For students enrolled in a private school or who are educated by other means, a parent or guardian or other person approved by the State Regents shall be designated the contact person.

C. Students who qualify on the basis of financial need according to the standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be given the opportunity throughout the eighth-, ninth-, and tenth-grade years, for students enrolled in a public or private school, or between thirteen (13) through fifteen (15) years of age, for students who are educated by other means, to enter into participation in the program by agreeing to, throughout the remainder of their school years or educational program:

1. Attend school or an educational program regularly and do homework regularly;

2. Refrain from substance abuse;

3. Refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts;

4. Have school work and school records reviewed by mentors designated pursuant to the program;

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

6. Participate in program activities.

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

D. A student shall not be found to be in financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if the income from taxable and nontaxable sources of the student's parent(s) exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) per year. The student's financial qualification shall be certified by the contact person ~~at the school~~ or by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education on the agreement form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education~~; the~~. The form shall be retained in the student's permanent record and a copy forwarded to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall designate personnel to coordinate tracking of program records for the years when students participating in the program are still in the ~~public~~ schools or are being educated by other means, provide staff development for contact persons in the ~~public~~ schools, and provide liaison with the State Board of Education and local organizations and individuals participating in the program.

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

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

SECTION 4. 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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