

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2589

By: Duncan

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; providing for a waiver of tuition for students who serve in the Oklahoma National Guard; 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; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to promulgate rules; requiring institutions to refund or provide tuition credit to students called to active military service; stating legislative intent that institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education adopt a certain grading policy for 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 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:

1. Is enrolled in a program of study leading to an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree;

2. Is enrolled in a 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:

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 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:

It is the intent of the Legislature that each institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education develop a policy which provides that if a student is called to active military service during a term in which the student has completed an amount of work sufficient to receive a grade, a failing grade is not given for the sole reason that the student did not complete the course. The policy should provide that either the grade earned at the time the student is called to active military service or an incomplete grade is recorded on the transcript of the student until such time as the student has reenrolled and completed the course following the tour of duty.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

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.

50-2-7729 KB 01/10/06