

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2590

By: Duncan

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; providing for a waiver of tuition for students who are dependents of Oklahoma peace officers and firefighters; 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; 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 2284 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A student who is a dependent of an Oklahoma peace officer or firefighter shall be eligible for a full resident tuition waiver, provided the student:

1. Is twenty-five (25) years of age or less 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. Is, at the beginning of the semester for which the student is applying for the waiver or by the waiver application deadline, a dependent of a:

- a. full-time, paid Oklahoma peace officer as defined in Section 648 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes and who is certified as a police or peace officer pursuant to Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or

b. full-time, paid Oklahoma firefighter employed by the state or a political subdivision of the state;

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 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 graduate level degrees or 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 five (5) 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, providing for the allocation of funding, and setting requirements that the student submit certain documents confirming eligibility and status.

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

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.

50-2-7730

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