

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2871

By: Morrissette

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; providing for a waiver of tuition for students who served or are the spouse or child of a person 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; requiring a certain minimum grade point average for continued eligibility; 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 or is the spouse or the child of a person who has served at least one tour on active duty with any branch of the military in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom shall be eligible for a full resident tuition waiver, provided the student:

1. Has served or is the spouse or child of a person who has served on active duty with any branch of the military in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom 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. A student shall be required to maintain a minimum of a 2.50 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale each semester in order to continue to be eligible to receive the waiver of resident tuition provided for in this section.

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.

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