

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2658

6 By: Lamons

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 (Higher education - undergraduate resident tuition
9 waivers for certain students - refund of tuition
10 for certain students deployed or mobilized -
11 codification - effective date -
12 emergency)

13
14
15
16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2283 of Title 70, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. A student shall be eligible for a full resident tuition
21 waiver, provided the student is:

22 1. A recipient of the Medal of Honor, commonly known as The
23 Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy
24 Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star with a combat "V"

1 device, Purple Heart, or Prisoner of War Medal, as a result of
2 serving in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States of
3 America; or

4 2. A veteran who receives twenty percent (20%) or more of
5 disability as a result of service in the Armed Forces of the United
6 States while conducting military operations.

7 B. The student shall:

8 1. Have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United
9 States under conditions of honorable, general under honorable
10 conditions, or medical discharge, or be a current member of a
11 reserve component of the United States Armed Forces; and

12 2. A bona fide resident of the State of Oklahoma one (1) year
13 prior to entrance into service and remain a bona fide resident of
14 the State of Oklahoma immediately following discharge from service.
15 Such residency shall meet requirements as set out by the Oklahoma
16 State Regents for Higher Education.

17 C. The Chancellor of Higher Education shall award a full
18 resident tuition waiver including, but not limited to, waiver of
19 tuition and fees associated with attending an institution within The
20 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to a student meeting any
21 of the requirements set forth in subsection A of this section and
22 both requirements set forth in subsection B of this section,
23 provided the student:

24

1 1. Meets all of the admission and retention requirements of an
2 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;

3 2. Is enrolled in a program of study leading to an associate or
4 a baccalaureate degree and has not previously completed a
5 baccalaureate or graduate degree; and

6 3. Is enrolled in a full-time or part-time program of study at
7 an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

8 D. 1. For enrollment in a full-time program of study, the
9 student shall not receive an award for more than eight (8)
10 semesters, or the equivalent of four (4) academic years, unless the
11 program of study normally requires five (5) academic years for
12 completion, or no more than ten (10) semesters.

13 2. For enrollment in a part-time program of study, the student
14 shall not receive an award for more than sixteen (16) semesters of
15 part-time undergraduate study, or the equivalent of eight (8)
16 academic years of part-time study, unless the program of study
17 normally requires five (5) academic years for completion under a
18 full-time program, then the award shall not exceed twenty (20)
19 semesters of part-time study, or the equivalent of ten (10) academic
20 years.

21 E. For the waiver of tuition to continue during the period of
22 enrollment, the student shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade
23 point average of two and one-half points on a four-point scale, or
24 its equivalent.

1 F. Payment of a tuition award shall be made directly to the
2 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

3 G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
4 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section
5 including, but not limited to, providing for the allocation of
6 funding and setting requirements that the student submit certain
7 documents confirming eligibility, proof, and status as a veteran or
8 qualifying family member.

9 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2284 of Title 70, unless there
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. A student shall be eligible for a one-hundred-percent refund
13 of tuition and fees, provided the student is:

14 1. A member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard;

15 2. A member of the Oklahoma Air National Guard;

16 3. A student who is a member of the reserve element of one of
17 the five branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of
18 America; or

19 4. An active-duty service member stationed in Oklahoma.

20 B. The student shall be required to leave school as a result of
21 involuntary orders for deployment or mobilization in the United
22 States Armed Forces.

23 C. A student meeting any of the requirements set forth in
24 subsection A of this section and the requirement set forth in

1 subsection B of this section shall be awarded a full refund of
2 tuition and fees associated with attending an institution within The
3 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, provided the student
4 notifies the institution in writing of the deployment with a copy of
5 the deployment orders no less than one (1) week prior to deployment.

6 D. Upon receiving a copy of the deployment orders, the
7 institution shall allow the student to receive a grade of
8 incomplete. The institution shall refund one hundred percent (100%)
9 of the tuition and fees associated with the coursework and any
10 unearned credit for the semester or quarter in which the student is
11 activated for duty.

12 E. Upon return from duty, the institution shall allow the
13 student to reenter the institution with the identical educational
14 and academic status had by the student prior to deployment.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

16 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
17 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

20

21 51-2-10517 KB 03/04/08

22

23

24