

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2658

6 By: Lamons

7 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

8 An Act relating to higher education; providing for
9 award of undergraduate resident tuition waivers for
10 certain students; stating eligibility requirements;
11 providing for award of undergraduate resident tuition
12 waivers for students that meet certain criteria;
13 limiting tuition waivers to certain programs;
14 providing maximum benefit; directing the State
15 Regents for Higher Education to promulgate rules;
16 specifying scope of rules; providing for refund of
17 tuition for certain students deployed or mobilized in
18 the United States Armed Forces; stating eligibility
19 requirements; providing notice requirements;
20 providing for a grade of incomplete for coursework;
21 providing for academic status upon return; providing
22 for codification; providing an effective date; and
23 declaring an emergency.

24 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 shall be eligible for a full resident tuition
waiver, provided the student is:

1 1. A recipient of the Medal of Honor, commonly known as The
2 Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy
3 Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, or
4 Prisoner of War Medal, as a result of serving in any branch of the
5 Armed Forces of the United States of America; or

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

9 B. The student shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 E. The waiver of tuition shall be limited to a period of ten
2 (10) years from the date of the last discharge of the veteran from
3 service.

4 F. For the waiver of tuition to continue during the period of
5 enrollment, the student shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade
6 point average of two and one-half points on a four-point scale, or
7 its equivalent.

8 G. Payment of a tuition award shall be made directly to the
9 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

10 H. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
11 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section
12 including, but not limited to, providing for the allocation of
13 funding and setting requirements that the student submit certain
14 documents confirming eligibility, proof, and status as a veteran or
15 qualifying family member.

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

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

- 21 1. A member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard;
- 22 2. A member of the Oklahoma Air National Guard;

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

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

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

8 C. A student meeting any of the requirements set forth in
9 subsection A of this section and the requirement set forth in
10 subsection B of this section shall be awarded a full refund of
11 tuition and fees associated with attending an institution within The
12 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, provided the student
13 notifies the institution in writing of the deployment with a copy of
14 the deployment orders no less than one (1) week prior to deployment.

15 D. Upon receiving a copy of the deployment orders, the
16 institution shall allow the student to receive a grade of
17 incomplete. The institution shall refund one hundred percent (100%)
18 of the tuition and fees associated with the coursework and any
19 unearned credit for the semester or quarter in which the student is
20 activated for duty.

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

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

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

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