

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 3102

By: Banz, Kern and Terrill of  
the House

3 and

4 Aldridge of the Senate  
5

6  
7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
8 2001, Section 2604, which relates to Oklahoma Higher  
9 Learning Access Program awards; limiting payment of  
awards for remedial non-credit-earning courses or  
units; specifying application; and providing an  
effective date.  
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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2604, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 2604. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an  
16 amount equivalent to the resident tuition for which an eligible  
17 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is obligated at an  
18 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall  
19 be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
20 Trust Fund.

21 B. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible  
22 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled at a  
23 private institution of higher learning located within this state and  
24 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, the Oklahoma

1 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Oklahoma  
2 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund an amount equivalent to the amount  
3 of resident tuition for which the student would be eligible if the  
4 student were enrolled in a comparable program at a comparable  
5 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.  
6 Comparability shall be determined by the State Regents.

7 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent  
8 to the tuition for any eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
9 Program student enrolled in a public postsecondary vocational-  
10 technical program or course for the purpose set forth in Section  
11 2602 of this title shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma  
12 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. Provided, such allocation shall  
13 not exceed the amount a student would have received for comparable  
14 enrollment at a two-year institution within The Oklahoma State  
15 System of Higher Education.

16 D. An award allowed by this section shall not include an amount  
17 equivalent to tuition or fees for remedial non-credit-earning  
18 courses or units taken by an eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning  
19 Access Program student. The provisions of this subsection shall not  
20 apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher Learning  
21 Access Program benefit award prior to the 2010-2011 school year.

22 E. An award allowed by this section shall not be allowed for  
23 courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the  
24 requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more

1 than five (5) years after the student's first semester of  
2 postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
3 Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program  
4 benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5)  
5 years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment  
6 only in hardship circumstances; ~~provided, however.~~ However, no  
7 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive  
8 benefits beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years. The  
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may establish a maximum  
10 limit on the number of courses or other postsecondary units to which  
11 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits will apply. An  
12 award for eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program students  
13 enrolled in cooperative programs pursuant to agreements between  
14 technology center schools and institutions of The Oklahoma State  
15 System of Higher Education shall be satisfied for both vocational-  
16 technical and college work in which enrolled pursuant to such  
17 cooperative program.

18 ~~E.~~ F. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
19 Access Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without  
20 any limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the  
21 amount of funds available for the program and the number of eligible  
22 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~F~~ G of this  
23 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all  
24 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

1 shall make awards on the basis of need. ~~Provided, the~~ The Oklahoma  
2 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration  
3 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when  
4 making awards.

5 ~~F.~~ G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at  
6 the time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Higher Learning  
7 Access Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
8 Access Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to ~~such~~ the  
9 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student. For all academic  
10 years, students who have previously received awards under the  
11 provisions of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, ~~Section 2601~~  
12 ~~et seq. of this title,~~ and who have continued at all times to  
13 fulfill the requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided  
14 pursuant to this program shall be given an absolute priority for  
15 continued financial support by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
16 Program superior to any students who are applying for such benefits  
17 for the first time.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.  
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