

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 25, 2008

House Bill No. 3120

HOUSE BILL NO. 3120 - By: JONES of the House and JOLLEY of the Senate.

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2404, which relates to the Oklahoma State Regents Academic Scholars Program; updating statutory language; changing percentage of scholarship funding which may be awarded to nonresident students; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2404, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 Section 2404. A. Scholarships awarded under the Oklahoma State Regents'
4 Academic Scholars Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any
5 limitation on the number of scholarships to be awarded in any year other than the
6 amount of funds available for the scholarship program and the number of eligible
7 applicants.

8 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the time a
9 scholarship is awarded to a student, set aside in the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic
10 Scholars Trust Fund funds for the full five-year commitment made to ~~such~~ the eligible
11 scholar. For all academic years, students who have previously received academic
12 scholarships under the provisions of this act and who have continued at all times to fulfill
13 the requirements for eligibility to receive academic scholarships provided in this act shall

1 be given an absolute priority for continued financial support by the Oklahoma State
2 Regents' Academic Scholars Program superior to any students who are applying for such
3 academic scholarships for the first time.

4 C. In addition to the qualifications specified in Section 2403 of this title, the
5 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may adopt additional criteria for selection
6 and allocation of awards which may include, but are not limited to, consideration of high
7 school academic performance and personal interviews. The Oklahoma State Regents for
8 Higher Education shall annually report on the number of former Academic Scholars
9 Program participants who stay in state as compared to those who leave Oklahoma within
10 five (5) years of leaving the Program. In addition, the Oklahoma State Regents for
11 Higher Education are hereby authorized to determine a maximum number of awards or a
12 maximum amount of funding which may go to nonresident students. ~~Such~~ The
13 maximum limitations shall not exceed ~~twenty-five~~ thirty percent (~~25%~~) (30%) of the
14 awards or amount of funding in any category provided in paragraph 2 of subsection A of
15 Section 2403 of this title.

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

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 02-21-08 - DO
20 PASS, As Coauthored.