

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2658

By: Lamons

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; providing for
8 award of undergraduate resident tuition waivers for
9 certain students; stating eligibility requirements;
10 providing for award of undergraduate resident tuition
11 waivers for students that meet certain criteria;
12 limiting tuition waivers to certain programs;
13 providing maximum benefit; directing the State
14 Regents for Higher Education to promulgate rules;
15 specifying scope of rules; defining certain
16 operations; providing for refund of tuition for
17 students deployed as a result of Operation Global War
18 on Terror; stating eligibility requirements;
19 providing notice requirements; providing coursework
20 completion options; providing for academic status
21 upon return; providing for codification; providing an
22 effective date; and declaring an emergency.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

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

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

1 1. A recipient of the Medal of Honor, commonly known as The
2 Congressional Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Bronze Star, or Purple
3 Heart as a result of serving in any branch of the Armed Forces of
4 the United States of America in support of Operation Global War on
5 Terror;

6 2. A veteran classified as a Prisoner of War by the United
7 States Department of Defense during Operation Global War on Terror;

8 3. A "combat veteran", which, for the purposes of this
9 subsection, means any person who served in armed combat after
10 September 11, 2001, who served during Operation Global War on Terror
11 including, but not limited to, United States military operations in
12 Afghanistan, Africa, the Philippines, Colombia, and Iraq, and
13 received a combat decoration from one of the five branches of the
14 Armed Forces of the United States of America;

15 4. A veteran who receives twenty percent (20%) or more of
16 disability as a result of service in the Armed Forces of the United
17 States while conducting military operations during Operation Global
18 War on Terror;

19 5. A child or spouse of a veteran who has died as a result of
20 service in combat operations during Operation Global War on Terror;
21 or

22 6. A child or spouse of a veteran who has a service-connected
23 disability or disabilities with a combined rating of twenty percent
24 (20%) or greater as a result of combat operations during Operation

1 Global War on Terror, as determined by the United States Veterans
2 Administration or other instrumentality of the United States.

3 B. The student shall have been:

4 1. Discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States under
5 conditions other than dishonorable discharge; and

6 2. A bona fide resident of the State of Oklahoma one (1) year
7 prior to entrance into service and remain a bona fide resident of
8 the State of Oklahoma immediately following discharge from service.

9 Such residency shall meet requirements as set out by the Oklahoma
10 State Regents for Higher Education.

11 C. The Chancellor of Higher Education shall award a full
12 resident tuition waiver including, but not limited to, waiver of
13 tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, and transportation
14 costs associated with attending an institution within The Oklahoma
15 State System of Higher Education to a student meeting any of the
16 requirements set forth in subsection A of this section and both
17 requirements set forth in subsection B of this section, provided the
18 student:

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

21 2. Is enrolled in a program of study leading to an associate or
22 a baccalaureate degree and has not previously completed a
23 baccalaureate or graduate degree; and

24

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 I. For purposes of this section, Operation Global War on Terror
8 shall include any of the following military operations:

- 9 1. Enduring Freedom;
- 10 2. Iraqi Freedom;
- 11 3. Noble Eagle;
- 12 4. Winter Freeze;
- 13 5. Joint Forge;
- 14 6. Joint Guardian;
- 15 7. Southern Watch;
- 16 8. Desert Spring; and

17 9. Any other military operation after September 11, 2001, in
18 which a combat veteran as defined by paragraph 3 of subsection A of
19 this section has served.

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

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

- 1 1. A member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard;
- 2 2. A member of the Oklahoma Air National Guard; or
- 3 3. An Oklahoma resident who is a member of the reserve element
- 4 of one of the five branches of the Armed Forces of the United States
- 5 of America.

6 B. The student shall have been deployed as a result of
7 Operation Global War on Terror.

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 two (2) weeks prior to
15 deployment.

16 D. Upon receiving a copy of the deployment orders, the
17 institution shall allow the student to receive a grade of incomplete
18 provided the student:

19 1. Notifies the institution in writing, within thirty (30) days
20 of returning to Oklahoma, that the student wishes to continue
21 coursework for which the student received a grade of incomplete; and

22 2. Completes the coursework for which the student received a
23 grade of incomplete within twelve (12) months of notifying the
24 institution of return to Oklahoma.

1 E. If the student does not elect to receive a grade of
2 incomplete, the student shall elect to withdraw from the coursework.
3 Upon withdrawal, the institution shall refund one hundred percent
4 (100%) of the tuition and fees associated with the coursework and
5 any unearned credit for the semester or quarter in which the student
6 is activated for duty.

7 F. Upon return from duty, the institution shall allow the
8 student to reenter the institution with the identical educational
9 and academic status had by the student prior to deployment.

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

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

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16 51-2-8378 MMP 12/31/07

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