

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2851

By: Kiesel

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma
8 Service Initiative Act; stating legislative findings;
9 stating purpose of the act; creating the Oklahoma
10 Service Initiative Board; providing for membership;
11 establishing terms of office; providing for chair and
12 vice-chair; allowing certain members to designate
13 staff to attend meetings; providing for travel
14 reimbursement; requiring a quorum; requiring meetings
15 and records to comply with certain acts; providing
16 for delegation of duties to the Oklahoma State
17 Regents for Higher Education; providing for immunity
18 and dual office holding; stating powers and duties of
19 the Board; creating the Oklahoma Service Initiative
20 Program; stating purpose of the Program; providing
21 for waiver of tuition upon completion of the Program;
22 stating eligibility criteria; requiring certain
23 enrollment; specifying coverage of waiver; limiting
24 waiver; providing for codification; providing an
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 4821 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
Service Initiative Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4822 of Title 70, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 The Oklahoma Legislature finds the following:

- 5 1. Throughout Oklahoma, there are pressing unmet human,
6 educational, environmental, and public safety needs;
- 7 2. The rising costs of postsecondary education is putting
8 higher education out of reach for an increasing number of citizens;
- 9 3. The youth and young adults of Oklahoma can improve their
10 communities and become better citizens through service to the state;
11 and
- 12 4. The youth and young adults of Oklahoma can be empowered
13 through their service and can help provide future community
14 leadership.

15 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4823 of Title 70, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 The purpose of the Oklahoma Service Initiative Act is to:

- 19 1. Meet the unmet human, educational, environmental, and public
20 safety needs of Oklahoma, without displacing existing workers;
- 21 2. Renew the ethic of civic responsibility and the spirit of
22 community throughout Oklahoma;

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1 3. Expand educational opportunity by rewarding individuals who
2 participate in state service with an increased ability to pursue
3 higher education or job training;

4 4. Encourage the youth and young adults of Oklahoma to engage
5 in state service;

6 5. Build on the existing organizational service infrastructure
7 of federal, state, and local programs and agencies to expand state
8 service opportunities; and

9 6. Provide tangible benefits to the communities in which state
10 service is performed.

11 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4824 of Title 70, unless there
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Service Initiative
15 Board. The Board shall be comprised of the following members:

16 1. The Adjutant General of the Military Department;

17 2. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction;

18 3. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
19 Education;

20 4. One member of the Oklahoma House of Representative appointed
21 by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;

22 5. One member of the State Senate appointed by the President
23 Pro Tempore of the State Senate; and
24

1 6. Three members from the general public, each of whom
2 possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in service learning or
3 volunteerism, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one by
4 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one by the
5 President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The initial appointee of the
6 Governor shall serve a term of two (2) years. The initial appointee
7 of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall serve a term of
8 three (3) years. The initial appointee of the Speaker of the House
9 of Representatives shall serve a term of four (4) years. Upon
10 expiration of the initial terms, subsequent terms shall be for four
11 (4) years.

12 B. The Chancellor of Higher Education shall serve as chair of
13 the Board. The Board shall select a vice-chair.

14 C. State agency members of the Board may designate members of
15 their respective staffs to attend meetings of the Board and to vote
16 in their absence. Such designations shall be in writing to the
17 chair of the Board and filed with the Secretary of State.

18 D. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but
19 shall receive travel reimbursement from their respective office or
20 agency or in the case of appointed members from the appointing
21 authority for actual and necessary travel expenses in accordance
22 with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

23 E. A majority of the members of the Board serving shall
24 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of

1 the Board. Voting upon action to be taken by the Board shall be
2 conducted by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting
3 of the Board.

4 F. The business of the Board shall be conducted at meetings of
5 the Board held in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.
6 The Board shall make records available to the public as required by
7 the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

8 G. The Board may delegate to the Oklahoma State Regents for
9 Higher Education some or all of the duties to carry out the day-to-
10 day operations and responsibilities of the program. The State
11 Regents shall provide staff for the Board. In exercising such
12 delegation, the State Regents shall be authorized to exercise the
13 powers as are vested in the Board which are necessary to fulfill the
14 delegated duties and responsibilities and may assign any such duties
15 and responsibilities to the staff as the State Regents deem
16 necessary and proper.

17 H. The members of the Board are immune from personal liability
18 with respect to all actions that are taken in good faith and within
19 the scope of the Board's authority.

20 I. The members of the Board shall not be subject to the dual
21 office holding prohibitions set forth by law.

22 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4825 of Title 70, unless there
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 The Oklahoma Service Initiative Board shall:

2 1. Develop and implement the Oklahoma Service Initiative
3 Program in a manner consistent with the Oklahoma Service Initiative
4 Act through the adoption of rules and guidelines;

5 2. Select and employ a director and other employees as may be
6 necessary to implement the Oklahoma Service Initiative Program;

7 3. Expend all monies allocated to the Oklahoma Service
8 Initiative Program as may be necessary to perform the duties and
9 responsibilities of the Board;

10 4. Select service programs or projects that will qualify for
11 benefits under the Oklahoma Service Initiative Program including,
12 but not limited to, service in the Oklahoma National Guard, service
13 at a public school district in the state, and participation in
14 conservation projects; and

15 5. Establish state service completion guidelines and
16 requirements.

17 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4826 of Title 70, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Service Initiative
21 Program which shall be administered by the Oklahoma Service
22 Initiative Board. The purpose of the Program shall be to provide
23 persons who are residents of the state and who have graduated from a
24 public or private school in the state an opportunity to volunteer to

1 participate in a state service project or projects for a minimum of
2 two (2) years. Upon completion of two (2) years of service, the
3 person shall qualify for a two-year waiver of resident tuition at an
4 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or
5 a two-year waiver of tuition for enrollment in a postsecondary
6 program offered at a technology center school district in the state.

7 B. A person who completes the Oklahoma Service Initiative
8 Program service requirements as established by the Oklahoma Service
9 Initiative Board shall be eligible for a tuition waiver, provided
10 the person:

11 1. Has been certified by the Board as satisfactorily completing
12 the state service requirements;

13 2. Is an Oklahoma resident;

14 3. Does not currently hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree;

15 and

16 4. Meets all admission and retention requirements of an
17 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or all
18 of the requirements to enroll in a postsecondary vocational-
19 technical program offered by a technology center school district.

20 C. A student meeting all the eligibility requirements as set
21 forth in subsection B of this section shall be awarded a tuition
22 waiver, provided the student is enrolled in a:

23 1. Program of study leading to an associate degree, a
24 baccalaureate degree, a certificate program, or career technology

1 | courses which count towards a degree program at another institution;
2 | and

3 | 2. Minimum of six (6) hours in the fall or spring semester or a
4 | minimum of three (3) hours in the summer term, for those students
5 | enrolled in a higher education institution. The student may meet
6 | this minimum enrollment requirement either at a single institution
7 | or more than one institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher
8 | Education.

9 | D. The waiver of tuition provided for in this section shall
10 | cover resident tuition for all courses for which resident tuition is
11 | charged. For students enrolled in a postsecondary vocational-
12 | technical program or course, the waiver shall not exceed the amount
13 | the student would have received for comparable enrollment at a two-
14 | year institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
15 | Education. The student shall be responsible for all other fees that
16 | may be charged.

17 | E. A student may receive a resident tuition waiver as provided
18 | for in this section for a maximum of eighteen (18) semester credit
19 | hours each semester, for up to two (2) years from the date of first
20 | application.

21 | SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

22 | SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 | of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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