

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2915

By: Morrissette

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; providing for a  
8 waiver of tuition for persons who served in certain  
9 military campaigns and the dependents and spouses of  
10 certain persons; stating eligibility requirements;  
11 providing for award of tuition waiver for students  
12 that meet certain criteria; stating coverage of  
13 tuition waiver; limiting tuition waiver to certain  
14 programs; providing maximum benefit; directing the  
15 State Regents for Higher Education to establish  
16 maximum reimbursement amount for certain costs;  
17 requiring institutions to provide forms and process  
18 for filing for reimbursement; defining certain  
19 operations; providing for codification; providing an  
20 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

A. A student shall be eligible for a full waiver of resident  
tuition and fees, and reimbursement for housing costs and textbooks  
as provided for in this section if the student:

1. Is a person who:

1 a. has served on active duty with any branch of the  
2 military in support of Operation Global War on Terror,  
3 or

4 b. is a dependent or spouse of a person who served at  
5 least one tour of active duty in a combat zone with  
6 any branch of the military in support of Operation  
7 Global War on Terror;

8 2. Is an Oklahoma resident;

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

10 and

11 4. Meets all admission and retention requirements of an  
12 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

13 B. A student meeting all of the eligibility requirements as set  
14 forth in subsection A of this section shall be awarded a full waiver  
15 of resident tuition and fees, and reimbursement for housing costs  
16 and textbooks, provided the student is enrolled in a:

17 1. Program of study leading to an associate degree or a  
18 baccalaureate degree; and

19 2. Minimum of six (6) hours in the fall or spring semester or a  
20 minimum of three (3) hours in the summer term. The student may meet  
21 this minimum enrollment requirement either at a single institution  
22 or more than one institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
23 Education.

1 C. The waiver of resident tuition provided for in this section  
2 shall cover resident tuition for all courses for which resident  
3 tuition is charged.

4 D. The waiver of resident tuition provided for in this section  
5 shall not be awarded for programs leading to a certificate,  
6 continuing education courses, or career technology courses which are  
7 not counted towards a degree program at another institution. The  
8 tuition waiver shall not apply to professional programs which do not  
9 require an earned degree.

10 E. A student may receive a resident tuition waiver as provided  
11 for in this section for a maximum of eighteen (18) semester credit  
12 hours each semester, for up to six (6) years from the date of first  
13 application.

14 F. The State Regents for Higher Education shall establish a  
15 maximum housing and textbook reimbursement amount a student shall be  
16 eligible to receive pursuant to this section. Each institution  
17 shall provide forms and procedures for students to file a claim for  
18 reimbursement of housing and textbook expenses.

19 G. For purpose of this section, Operation Global War on Terror  
20 shall include any of the following military operations:

- 21 1. Enduring Freedom;
- 22 2. Iraqi Freedom;
- 23 3. Noble Eagle;
- 24 4. Winter Freeze;

- 1       5. Joint Forge;
- 2       6. Joint Guardian;
- 3       7. Southern Watch; and
- 4       8. Desert Spring.

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

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

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