

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1766

By: Morrissette

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; providing for a  
8 waiver of tuition for full-time employees of the  
9 State Department of Corrections; stating eligibility  
10 requirements; providing for award of tuition waiver  
11 for students that meet certain criteria; stating  
12 coverage of tuition waiver; limiting tuition waiver  
13 to certain programs; providing maximum benefit;  
14 directing the State Regents for Higher Education to  
15 establish maximum reimbursement amount for certain  
16 costs; requiring institutions to provide forms and  
17 process for filing for reimbursement; providing for  
18 codification; providing an effective date; and  
19 declaring an emergency.

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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 2283 of Title 70, unless there  
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 textbooks as provided for in  
this section if the student:

1. Is a full-time employee of the State Department of  
Corrections;

1           2. Has been employed full-time by the State Department of  
2 Corrections for not less than one (1) year;

3           3. Is an Oklahoma resident;

4           4. Does not currently hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree;  
5 and

6           5. Meets all admission and retention requirements of an  
7 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

8           B. A student meeting all of the eligibility requirements as set  
9 forth in subsection A of this section shall be awarded a full waiver  
10 of resident tuition and fees, and reimbursement for textbooks,  
11 provided the student is enrolled in a:

12           1. Program of study leading to an associate degree or a  
13 baccalaureate degree; and

14           2. Minimum of six (6) hours in the fall or spring semester or a  
15 minimum of three (3) hours in the summer term. The student may meet  
16 this minimum enrollment requirement either at a single institution  
17 or more than one institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
18 Education and either through enrollment in an on-campus course or an  
19 online course.

20           C. The waiver of resident tuition provided for in this section  
21 shall cover resident tuition for all courses for which resident  
22 tuition is charged.

23           D. The waiver of resident tuition provided for in this section  
24 shall not be awarded for programs leading to a certificate,

1 continuing education courses, or career technology courses which are  
2 not counted towards a degree program at another institution. The  
3 tuition waiver shall not apply to professional programs which do not  
4 require an earned degree.

5 E. A student may receive a resident tuition waiver as provided  
6 for in this section for a maximum of eighteen (18) semester credit  
7 hours each semester until the student finishes all the requirements  
8 for a degree program, as long as the student remains a full-time  
9 employee of the State Department of Corrections.

10 F. The State Regents for Higher Education shall establish a  
11 maximum textbook reimbursement amount a student shall be eligible to  
12 receive pursuant to this section. Each institution shall provide  
13 forms and procedures for students to file a claim for reimbursement  
14 of textbook expenses.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

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

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21 52-1-5395 KB 01/15/09

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