

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1421

By: Casey, Osborn, Hickman and
Billy of the House

3 and

4 Halligan of the Senate
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6
7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.
8 2001, Section 2603, as last amended by Section 32,
9 Chapter 2, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section
10 2603), which relates to eligibility requirements for
11 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; and
12 adding certain requirement to retain eligibility.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2603, as
15 last amended by Section 32, Chapter 2, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp.
16 2010, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in this
18 section, to be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher
19 Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award which includes
20 payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition
21 pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or
22 other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

23 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school
24 district located in this state that serves students who reside in

1 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as
2 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

3 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United
4 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully
5 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in
6 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an
7 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.
8 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who
9 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to
10 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

11 3. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements
12 executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;

13 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
14 from a high school accredited by the State Board of
15 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and
16 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
17 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
18 grades nine through twelve,

19 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
20 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
21 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
22 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
23 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a
24 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or

1 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
2 three (3) years an educational program that was
3 provided through a means other than a public or
4 private school and have achieved a composite score of
5 22 or higher on the ACT test;

6 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
7 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
8 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that
9 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements
10 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-
11 English language or technology courses that meet the college
12 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine
13 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point
14 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a
15 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or
16 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all
17 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this
18 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the
19 State Regents for remediation of high school curricular
20 deficiencies;

21 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the
22 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering
23 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a
24 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as

1 determined by the private institution. No student participating in
2 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into
3 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

4 7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution
5 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
6 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a
7 duly approved cooperative agreement between a technology center
8 school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
9 Education, or a private institution of higher learning located
10 within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this
11 title; and

12 8. a. have established financial need according to the
13 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this
14 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

16 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve
17 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of
18 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered
19 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing
20 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as
21 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have
22 established financial need according to the provisions
23 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this
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1 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or
3 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and
4 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent
5 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the
6 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit
7 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian
8 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare
9 Act, have established financial need according to the
10 provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section
11 2605 of this title and standards and provisions
12 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
13 Education.

14 B. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher
15 learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

16 1. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a
17 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken through the student's
18 sophomore year and achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a
19 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken during the student's
20 junior year and thereafter. The provisions of this paragraph shall
21 not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher
22 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2010-2011 school
23 year;

1 2. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic
2 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for
3 Higher Education;

4 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for
5 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.
6 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the
7 2012-2013 school year;

8 4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of
9 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
10 Education; and

11 ~~4.~~ 5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or
12 suspension of more than one semester from an institution of higher
13 education. A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph
14 shall permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The
15 provisions of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

16 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
17 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate
18 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under this act by a
19 student.

20 D. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the
21 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be
22 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to this
23 act shall be the first students eligible for benefits from the
24 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

1 E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
2 authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining
3 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7) semesters
4 of high school coursework by a student.

5 Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of March, 2011.

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8 Presiding Officer of the House of
9 Representatives

10 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2011.

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13 Presiding Officer of the Senate

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