

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

4   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
5   FOR  
6   HOUSE BILL NO. 1421

                                  By: Casey

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8                                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9           An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
10           2001, Section 2603, as last amended by Section 32,  
11           Chapter 2, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section  
12           2603), which relates to eligibility requirements for  
13           the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; adding  
14           certain requirement to retain eligibility; providing  
15           and effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

17           SECTION 1.           AMENDATORY           70 O.S. 2001, Section 2603, as  
18           last amended by Section 32, Chapter 2, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp.  
19           2010, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

20           Section 2603.   A.   Except as otherwise provided for in this  
21           section, to be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher  
22           Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award which includes  
23           payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition

1 pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or  
2 other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

3 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school  
4 district located in this state that serves students who reside in  
5 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as  
6 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

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

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

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

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- 1           b.    have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
2                    from a high school not accredited by the State Board  
3                    of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
4                    average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
5                    grades nine through twelve and have achieved a  
6                    composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or  
7            c.    have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
8                    three (3) years an educational program that was  
9                    provided through a means other than a public or  
10                   private school and have achieved a composite score of  
11                   22 or higher on the ACT test;

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

1 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the  
2 State Regents for remediation of high school curricular  
3 deficiencies;

4 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
5 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering  
6 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a  
7 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as  
8 determined by the private institution. No student participating in  
9 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into  
10 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

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

19 8. a. have established financial need according to the  
20 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this  
21 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
22 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

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

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

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

1 1. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a  
2 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken through the student's  
3 sophomore year and achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a  
4 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken during the student's  
5 junior year and thereafter. The provisions of this paragraph shall  
6 not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher  
7 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2010-2011 school  
8 year;

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

12 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for  
13 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.  
14 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the  
15 2012-2013 school year;

16 4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of  
17 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
18 Education; and

19 ~~4.~~ 5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or  
20 suspension of more than one semester from an institution of higher  
21 education. A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph  
22 shall permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The  
23 provisions of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

1 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
2 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
3 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under this act by a  
4 student.

5 D. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the  
6 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be  
7 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to this  
8 act shall be the first students eligible for benefits from the  
9 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

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

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2011.

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

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20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated  
21 03-03-2011 - DO PASS, As Amended.

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