

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 53rd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1343
Version:	SUBPCS1
Request Number:	6755
Author:	Representative Proctor
Date:	2/21/2011
Impact:	FY-12: Approx. \$24,677 to the State, Increasing in Out Years

Research Analysis

The proposed committee substitute for House Bill 1343 would allow a student to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and qualify for an award equivalent to resident tuition if the student is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000, in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a result of any injury sustained while in the line of duty. The person who died from injures or was killed must have filed an Oklahoma income tax return for the year prior to death. The student must enroll in an institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education prior to turning 21 and must satisfy admission standards for first-time-entering students. Students must enroll in an institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program approved for a cooperative program with the Oklahoma State System of Higher education or an Oklahoma private institution of higher learning. Students will not be subject to the other qualification requirements of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. Students who become eligible after completing 10th grade or turning 16, will have the opportunity to enter the program pursuant to an agreement with provisions determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The committee substitute also allows a student to receive an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program award after the age of 21 if, he or she is unable to enroll before turning 21 because of active duty service.

Prepared By: Dawn Marks

Fiscal Analysis

Based on the current number of Oklahoma war casualties, staff estimates a total of 127 dependents would be eligible to participate in the OK Promise program pursuant to the measure's provisions. However, ages of casualties range from nineteen to over thirty-nine, without any data on the ages of the dependents. Therefore, staff has made the following assumptions: 1) casualties ages 19-20 have no children, ages 21-25 have one child, and 26+ have 2 children, 2) the average age of the parent was 25 at the time of the child's birth, 3) only those dependents whose parents were over age 39 would be eligible for tuition waivers in the immediate future, and 4) tuition rates increase an average of 5% per year. Based on these assumptions, the impact in FY-12 would equal the number of eligible dependents (8), times the average tuition rate (\$3,085 for 30 credit hours among all tiers), for a total of \$24,677. This figure would gradually increase until the peak in 2029, at which time the number of dependents eligible would total 45 and the average tuition would cost \$7,070 per year, for a cost of \$318,154. This cost estimate assumes there are no additional casualties in the meantime.

Future costs will depend on a number of variables, including tuition rates and number of eligible dependents.

As this program receives dedicated revenue every year, there would be no change in state appropriations to the Regents, but the Regents would request a greater amount from the Board of Equalization.

Prepared By: Nicole Barnes

Other Considerations

None