

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2635

6 By: Proctor

7 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

8 An Act relating to higher education; stating intent
9 for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
10 to establish a public health and safety professional
11 incentive program; stating purpose of the program;
12 listing eligibility criteria for incentive payments;
13 making certain persons eligible for certain tax
14 credit; specifying amount of the tax credit;
15 directing the State Regents to provide certain
16 documentation; requiring the execution of contracts;
17 allowing the Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents
18 for Higher Education to contract with other entities
19 for administration of the program; authorizing an
20 income tax deduction for tuition and fee costs
21 related to a public health and safety professional
22 incentive program; stating amount of the credit;
23 requiring certain documentation; limiting amount of
24 reduction of tax liability; allowing tax credit to be
carried over; providing for codification; providing
an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 698.4 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that, beginning
2 with the 2014-2015 school year, the Oklahoma State Regents for
3 Higher Education establish a public health and safety professional
4 incentive program for students enrolled in a program at an
5 accredited Oklahoma institution of higher education who declare an
6 intention to serve and who subsequently serve this state for a
7 minimum of five (5) consecutive years as a:

8 1. Law enforcement officer for a municipality, a county, a
9 political subdivision of the state or the state;

10 2. Firefighter for a municipality, a county, a political
11 subdivision of the state or the state;

12 3. Nurse for a health facility located in the state in a county
13 with a population of less than thirty thousand (30,000) or for a
14 health institution or agency operated by a municipality, county, or
15 political subdivision of the state, or the state, and which is
16 located in a county with a population of less than thirty thousand
17 (30,000); or

18 4. Member of the Oklahoma National Guard.

19 B. Students meeting the criteria provided in this section shall
20 be given the opportunity to enter into participation in the program.

21 C. In order to qualify to receive incentive payments as
22 provided for in this section, the person shall:

23 1. Be a United States citizen;

24 2. Be a resident of Oklahoma;

1 3. Complete any course work and training necessary for one of
2 the professions as listed in subsection A of this section;

3 4. Have secured admission to and enrolled in a full-time or
4 part-time program of study at an institution within The Oklahoma
5 State System of Higher Education;

6 5. Be enrolled in a program of study leading to an associate or
7 a baccalaureate degree; and

8 6. Complete the first full year of eligible professional
9 service in one of the professions listed in subsection A of this
10 section within twenty-five (25) months from the date of graduation
11 from a higher education institution or application for the program.

12 D. Persons who actually render a minimum of five (5) years of
13 professional service in the state in a profession listed in
14 subsection A of this section shall be eligible for the tax credit
15 provided for in Section 2 of this act. The total amount of the tax
16 credit for any qualified person shall not exceed an amount equal to
17 twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of four (4) years of
18 undergraduate resident tuition and fees for full-time enrollment
19 incurred by the person at an institution within The Oklahoma State
20 System of Higher Education.

21 E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
22 provide each qualified person with adequate documentation of the
23 total costs of tuition and fees the person incurred as provided for
24 in subsection D of this section and documentation that the person

1 has met the minimum five (5) years of professional service in the
2 state, which documentation is required to be provided in order to
3 qualify for the tax credit.

4 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
5 require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible
6 persons. Persons failing to comply with the requirements of this
7 section shall not be eligible for the tax credit provided for in
8 Section 2 of this act. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents
9 for Higher Education, with approval of the State Regents, may
10 contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of
11 government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

12 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2357.451 of Title 68, unless
14 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014, a
16 person who qualifies pursuant to a public health and safety
17 professional incentive program as provided for in Section 1 of this
18 act shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to
19 Section 2355 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes for the cost of
20 tuition and fees.

21 B. The credit authorized by subsection A of this section shall
22 be in an amount equal to twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of
23 four (4) years of undergraduate resident tuition and fees for full-

24

1 time enrollment incurred by the person at an institution within The
2 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

3 C. In order to claim the tax credit authorized by this section,
4 a person shall be required to provide adequate documentation to the
5 Oklahoma Tax Commission of the total cost of resident tuition and
6 fees incurred by the person and adequate documentation of completion
7 of the minimum five (5) years of professional service in the state
8 as required in Section 1 of this act. The documentation shall be
9 provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

10 D. The credit authorized by this section shall not be used to
11 reduce the tax liability of the taxpayer to less than zero (0).

12 E. Any credit claimed, but not used, may be carried over, in
13 order, to each of the five (5) subsequent taxable years.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

15 SECTION 4. 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.

19

20 54-2-10044 KB 02/13/14

21

22

23

24