

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

4 HOUSE BILL 2535

                                  By: Cox and Pittman

7                                   AS INTRODUCED

8                   **[ higher education - establishing the Oklahoma Early**  
9                                   **College Scholarship Program - effective date -**  
10   **emergency ]**

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

14           SECTION 1.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2651 of Title 70, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17           There is hereby established the Oklahoma Early College  
18 Scholarship Program to be administered by the Oklahoma State Regents  
19 for Higher Education. The purpose of the Program is to allow a  
20 student who graduates from a public high school in three (3) years  
21 or less to receive a scholarship funded with a portion of the money  
22 saved by the state in providing State Aid funding to school  
23 districts pursuant to Section 18-200.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
24 Statutes as a result of the early graduation of the student. To be

1 eligible for the scholarship the student shall enroll in an  
2 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
3 Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered  
4 pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement between a  
5 technology center school and an institution of The Oklahoma State  
6 System of Higher Education or a private institution of higher  
7 learning located within this state and accredited pursuant to  
8 Section 4103 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

9 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2652 of Title 70, unless there  
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. To be eligible for the Oklahoma Early College Scholarship  
13 Program, a student shall:

14 1. Be a resident of Oklahoma;

15 2. Complete the requirements for graduation from a public high  
16 school accredited by the State Board of Education including the  
17 requirements set forth in Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the  
18 Oklahoma Statutes and Section 1210.523 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
19 Statutes and be awarded a high school diploma by a public high  
20 school in three (3) years or less;

21 3. Have attended a public high school in Oklahoma on a full-  
22 time basis for at least two semesters prior to graduating; and

23 4. Within one (1) year of graduating from high school,  
24 excluding any time served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the

1 United States, enroll full-time in an institution which is a member  
2 of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a postsecondary  
3 vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a duly approved  
4 cooperative agreement between a technology center school and an  
5 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a  
6 private institution of higher learning located within this state and  
7 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
8 Statutes.

9 B. No student who enrolls in a high school for all or any part  
10 of a fourth year shall be eligible for the Oklahoma Early College  
11 Scholarship Program.

12 C. A public high school shall submit to the State Department of  
13 Education the name of each student who graduates in three (3) years  
14 or less and meets the eligibility requirements as set forth in  
15 paragraphs 1 through 3 of subsection A of this section.

16 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2653 of Title 70, unless there  
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. The amount of the Oklahoma Early College Scholarship shall  
20 be calculated by multiplying the current statewide average per  
21 student allocation of State Aid as determined by the State Board of  
22 Education by eighty percent (80%).

23 B. One-half (1/2) of the scholarship award as calculated  
24 pursuant to subsection A of this section shall be paid to an

1 institution on behalf of any eligible student there enrolled at the  
2 beginning of the fall semester, and the other one-half (1/2) shall  
3 be paid in the same manner at the beginning of the spring semester.  
4 A student shall be enrolled full-time during the spring semester in  
5 order to receive the second scholarship award installment.

6 C. The institution shall apply the scholarship award payment to  
7 any outstanding tuition and fees of the student and shall remit the  
8 balance of the scholarship award, if any, to the student.

9 D. The amount of a scholarship awarded under the Oklahoma Early  
10 College Scholarship Program shall not be considered as a financial  
11 resource in determining the amount of any grant or scholarship  
12 provided for under Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or, except as  
13 required by federal law, in determining the amount of any other  
14 grant or scholarship administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for  
15 Higher Education.

16 E. An institution shall not be required to change its admission  
17 standards to accept an individual to whom the State Regents has  
18 awarded an Oklahoma Early College Scholarship. The scholarship  
19 shall not be used for remedial course work at the institution. The  
20 institution shall provide facilities and instruction to a student  
21 awarded a scholarship on the same terms as to other students.

22 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2654 of Title 70, unless there  
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. Any eligible student seeking to obtain an Oklahoma Early  
2 College Scholarship shall, by September 1 of the year following  
3 graduation from high school, apply for admission to an approved  
4 higher education institution as provided for in Section 1 of this  
5 act. The institution shall determine the initial eligibility of the  
6 student. Once the student is admitted into the Oklahoma Early  
7 College Scholarship Program, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
8 Education shall make scholarship payments to the institution on  
9 behalf of the student. The institutions shall submit to the State  
10 Regents the names of all eligible students by October 1 for the  
11 first semester and by February 25 for the second semester. Once the  
12 eligibility of each student is verified, the State Regents shall  
13 distribute the funds necessary to award the scholarship to each  
14 eligible student to the institutions for the first semester on  
15 October 15 or the first working day thereafter, and for the second  
16 semester on March 15 or the first working day thereafter.

17       B. The State Department of Education shall calculate the total  
18 cost of all scholarships for all eligible students in the state.  
19 The State Department of Education shall then reserve or retain from  
20 the total amount appropriated to the State Board of Education for  
21 State Aid purposes and any other revenue available for allocation  
22 for State Aid purposes the total cost for all scholarship payments.  
23 The State Department of Education shall transfer to the State  
24 Regents the amount of money necessary to award the Oklahoma Early

1 College Scholarships to all students admitted into the Scholarship  
2 Program for that fiscal year. One-half (1/2) of the necessary  
3 amount shall be transferred by October 15 for distribution for the  
4 first semester, and one-half (1/2) of the necessary amount shall be  
5 transferred by March 15 for distribution for the second semester.  
6 Upon receipt, the State Regents shall distribute the funds pursuant  
7 to subsection A of this section.

8 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

9 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
10 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated  
15 02/27/2014 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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