

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 HOUSE BILL 1121

By: Roussetot

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; providing for a  
8 waiver of tuition for students who are dependents of  
9 public school employees; stating eligibility  
10 requirements; providing for award of tuition waiver  
11 for students that meet certain criteria; stating  
12 coverage of tuition waiver; limiting tuition waiver  
13 to certain programs; providing maximum benefit;  
14 creating the Oklahoma Children of Educators Trust  
15 Fund; making the State Regents for Higher Education  
16 the trustee; stating purpose of the Trust Fund;  
17 providing for source of funding; providing for  
18 budgeting and expenditures; requiring income and  
19 investments to be used for certain purposes;  
20 prohibiting use for certain administrative costs;  
21 requiring administrative costs to be paid from  
22 appropriated monies; directing the State Regents to  
23 adopt rules addressing the transfer of funds;  
24 limiting allocations from the Trust Fund; 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 2651 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. A student who is the dependent of a person who is a full-  
2 time certified or support employee as defined in Section 26-103 of  
3 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be eligible for a full  
4 waiver of resident tuition and fees at an institution within The  
5 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, provided the student:

6       1. Is the dependent of a person who is a full-time certified or  
7 support employee as defined in Section 26-103 of Title 70 of the  
8 Oklahoma Statutes;

9       2. Is an Oklahoma resident;

10       3. a. graduated within the previous three (3) years from a  
11 high school accredited by the State Board of  
12 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
13 Mathematics with a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point  
14 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
15 grades nine through twelve,

16       b. graduated within the previous three (3) years from a  
17 high school not accredited by the State Board of  
18 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
19 Mathematics with a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point  
20 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
21 grades nine through twelve and achieved a composite  
22 score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or

23       c. satisfactorily completed within the previous three (3)  
24 years an education program that was provided through a

1 means other than a public or private school and  
2 achieved a composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT  
3 test;

4 4. Does not currently hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree;  
5 and

6 5. Meets all admission and retention requirements of an  
7 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

8 B. A student meeting all of the eligibility requirements as set  
9 forth in subsection A of this section shall be awarded a full waiver  
10 of resident tuition and fees, provided the student is enrolled in a:

11 1. Program of study leading to an associate degree or a  
12 baccalaureate degree; and

13 2. Minimum of six (6) hours in the fall or spring semester or a  
14 minimum of three (3) hours in the summer term. The student may meet  
15 this minimum enrollment requirement either at a single institution  
16 or more than one institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
17 Education.

18 C. The waiver of resident tuition and fees provided for in this  
19 section shall cover resident tuition and fees for all courses for  
20 which resident tuition is charged and all other academic service  
21 fees charged by the institution in which the student is enrolled.

22 D. The waiver of resident tuition and fees provided for in this  
23 section shall not be awarded for programs leading to a certificate,  
24 continuing education courses, or career technology courses which are

1 not counted towards a degree program at another institution. The  
2 tuition waiver shall not apply to professional programs which do not  
3 require an earned degree.

4 E. A student may receive a resident tuition waiver as provided  
5 for in this section for a maximum of eighteen (18) semester credit  
6 hours each semester for up to five (5) years from the date of first  
7 application.

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

11 A. There is hereby created a trust fund to be known as the  
12 "Oklahoma Children of Educators Trust Fund". The Oklahoma State  
13 Regents for Higher Education shall be the trustee of said Trust  
14 Fund.

15 B. The State Regents shall utilize said Trust Fund to implement  
16 the provisions of Section 1 of this act.

17 C. The Trust Fund principal shall consist of monies the  
18 Legislature appropriates or transfers to the Oklahoma State Regents  
19 for Higher Education for the Trust Fund and any monies or assets  
20 contributed to the Trust Fund from any other source, public or  
21 private. All monies accruing to the credit of the Trust Fund are  
22 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State  
23 Regents. Expenditures from the Trust Fund shall be made upon  
24 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as

1 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and  
2 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

3 D. Notwithstanding other provisions of law, income and  
4 investment return on Trust Fund principal shall accrue to the Trust  
5 Fund for use as provided by authorization of the trustees for the  
6 purposes provided in Section 1 of this act. The State Regents may  
7 also utilize the Trust Fund principal for the purposes provided in  
8 Section 1 of this act. Except as otherwise provided by law, no such  
9 income or investment return or principal shall be used for  
10 administrative expenses. Expenses incurred by the State Regents in  
11 the administration of the Trust Fund and the tuition and fees waiver  
12 program for children of Oklahoma educators as set forth in Section 1  
13 of this act shall be paid from monies appropriated to the State  
14 Regents coordinating board for its general operating budget.

15 E. The State Regents shall adopt rules for accomplishing  
16 transfer of monies from the Trust Fund to the appropriate  
17 institutional Educational and General Operations Revolving Funds, as  
18 provided in Section 3901 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes to  
19 cover resident tuition, course fees and any other academic service  
20 fees for eligible students pursuant to Section 1 of this act.  
21 Allocations from the Trust Fund may be made only for the purpose of  
22 covering the tuition and fees of eligible students. No portion of  
23 the Trust Fund may be used or allocated for administrative or  
24 operating expenses of any higher education institution.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

2 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
3 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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