

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1662

By: Ford

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; creating the  
8 Oklahoma Career Promise Act; providing short title;  
9 directing the Executive Director of the Oklahoma  
10 Department of Commerce, in certain consultation, to  
11 publish a list of certain industry areas; directing  
12 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to  
13 identify certain programs; establishing criteria for  
14 certain programs; providing for identification of  
15 costs; establishing eligibility and providing for  
16 verification; providing for funding; providing for  
17 awards to students who participated in concurrent  
18 enrollment; providing basis for awarding certain  
19 benefits; permitting completion of certain  
20 coursework; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for  
21 Higher Education to make certain estimate; directing  
22 submission of certain report; directing promulgation  
23 of rules; creating the Oklahoma Career Promise  
24 Revolving 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 2606 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited  
as the "Oklahoma Career Promise Act".

1           SECTION 2.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2607 of Title 70, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           A.   The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of  
5 Commerce, in consultation with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
6 Education, shall publish no later than October 1, 2014, and by June  
7 30 each year thereafter, a list of critical industry areas that meet  
8 the guidelines of the identified core competencies of the state  
9 based on wealth generation, growth potential and competitive  
10 advantage.

11           B.   The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
12 identify associate degree programs offered at institutions within  
13 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that correlate to  
14 industry areas identified by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma  
15 Department of Commerce.   The programs shall:

- 16           1.   Meet the requirements for federal financial aid; and
- 17           2.   Include a minimum of nine hundred (900) contact hours or  
18 include a minimum of twenty-four (24) college credit equivalent  
19 hours.

20           C.   The State Regents for Higher Education shall annually  
21 identify the total cost of resident fees broken down by each  
22 institution of all industry areas identified by the Executive  
23 Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.   An award for  
24 eligible Oklahoma Career Promise Program students enrolled in

1 qualifying associate degree programs offered at institutions within  
2 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall include payment  
3 of an amount equivalent to resident fees at the institution of  
4 higher education.

5 D. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Career Promise  
6 Program during the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter, a student  
7 shall:

8 1. Meet the applicable eligibility requirements for the  
9 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program pursuant to Sections 2603  
10 and 2605 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, as verified by the  
11 State Regents for Higher Education; and

12 2. Enroll in a qualifying program offered by an institution of  
13 higher education identified by the State Regents for Higher  
14 Education.

15 E. An institution of higher education shall verify with the  
16 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education that a student is  
17 eligible for an Oklahoma Career Promise Program award.

18 F. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equal to the  
19 resident fees for any eligible Oklahoma Career Promise Program  
20 student enrolled in a qualifying program offered at an institution  
21 of higher education for the purposes set forth in this section shall  
22 be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Career Promise Revolving  
23 Fund created in Section 3 of this act. If the qualifying higher  
24 education institution program consists of four semesters and the

1 student successfully completes the associate degree program within  
2 twenty-eight (28) months of enrolling in a qualifying program  
3 offered at an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
4 Education, the student may apply to the Oklahoma State Regents for  
5 Higher Education for reimbursement of resident fees.

6 G. A student who has earned college credit through concurrent  
7 enrollment pursuant to Section 628.13 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
8 Statutes shall only be eligible for an Oklahoma Career Promise  
9 Program award equal to the resident fee amount required to complete  
10 a qualifying associate degree program.

11 H. Benefits awarded according to this section through the  
12 Oklahoma Career Promise Program to students attending qualifying  
13 higher education institution programs shall be awarded on a first-  
14 come, first-serve basis to all eligible applicants, subject to  
15 availability of funding.

16 I. A student who meets the eligibility qualifications set forth  
17 in subsection D of this section and enrolls in a qualifying higher  
18 education institution program according to this section may complete  
19 the prescribed coursework for an associate degree, regardless of  
20 whether the program is included on the most current list published  
21 by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, as  
22 long as the program is completed within twenty-eight (28) months of  
23 the student's first enrollment in the program.

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1 J. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
2 estimate the amount of revenue deemed necessary to fund the awards  
3 allowed under this section for the fiscal year which begins July 1,  
4 2014, and provide the estimate to the President Pro Tempore of the  
5 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within thirty  
6 (30) days of passage and approval of this act. Thereafter, the  
7 estimates shall be provided annually on October 1 to the President  
8 Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of  
9 Representatives.

10 K. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
11 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall  
12 promulgate rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this  
13 section.

14 L. Not later than the end of each calendar year, the Oklahoma  
15 State Regents for Higher Education shall submit a report to the  
16 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President  
17 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma  
18 Department of Commerce containing the number and types of associate  
19 degrees achieved by students who received benefits awarded under the  
20 Oklahoma Career Promise Program.

21 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2608 of Title 70, unless there  
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1        There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
2 for the State Regents for Higher Education to be designated the  
3 "Oklahoma Career Promise Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a  
4 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall  
5 consist of all monies appropriated or transferred to the fund by the  
6 Legislature. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are  
7 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma  
8 State Regents for Higher Education to provide Oklahoma Career  
9 Promise Program awards to eligible students. Expenditures from the  
10 fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer  
11 against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the  
12 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and  
13 payment.

14        SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

15        SECTION 5. 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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