

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

February 25, 2015

2 **AS AMENDED**

3 SENATE BILL NO. 404

By: Ford and Mazzei of the
Senate

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5
6 **[career and technology education - Oklahoma Career**
7 **Promise Act - industry certification areas - costs -**
8 **eligibility - funding - estimate - report - Oklahoma**
9 **Career Promise Revolving Fund - codification -**
10 **effective-date -**
11 **emergency-]**

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

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2606 of Title 70, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

21 A. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of
22 Commerce, in consultation with the State Board of Career and
23 Technology Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
24 Education, shall publish no later than October 1, 2015, and by June
30 each year thereafter, a list of critical industry certification

1 areas that meet the guidelines of the identified core competencies
2 of the state based on wealth generation, growth potential, and
3 competitive advantage.

4 B. The State Board of Career and Technology Education and the
5 State Regents for Higher Education shall identify postsecondary
6 vocational-technical programs offered at technology center schools
7 and institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
8 Education that correlate to industry areas identified by the
9 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The
10 programs shall:

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

15 C. The State Board of Career and Technology Education and the
16 State Regents for Higher Education shall annually identify an
17 average total cost of in-district tuition and fees for each industry
18 certification area identified by the Executive Director of the
19 Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

20 D. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Career Promise
21 Program during the 2015-2016 school year and thereafter, a student
22 shall:

- 23 1. Meet the applicable eligibility requirements for the
24 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program pursuant to Sections 2603

1 and 2605 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, as verified by the
2 State Regents for Higher Education; and

3 2. Enroll in a qualifying postsecondary vocational-technical
4 program offered at a technology center school or an institution of
5 higher education.

6 E. A technology center school or an institution of higher
7 education shall verify with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
8 Education that a student is eligible for an Oklahoma Career Promise
9 Program tuition reimbursement award.

10 F. Subject to the availability of funds, a student who meets
11 the eligibility requirements of subsection D of this section and who
12 achieves a certification through a qualifying postsecondary
13 vocational-technical program offered at a technology center school
14 or an institution of higher education shall be eligible to receive
15 tuition reimbursement assistance. An amount equivalent to the
16 average in-district tuition and fees for which an Oklahoma Career
17 Promise Program participant is obligated shall be awarded by
18 allocation from the Oklahoma Career Promise Revolving Fund created
19 in Section 3 of this act. The amount of the tuition reimbursement
20 shall be reduced by the amount of scholarship and grant aid the
21 student received that could be used for the payment of tuition and
22 applicable fees.

23 G. Tuition reimbursement awards granted pursuant to this
24 section shall be awarded to all eligible participants without any

1 limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the amount
2 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
3 applicants. If funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all
4 eligible participants, available funds shall be distributed on a pro
5 rata basis.

6 H. A student who meets the eligibility qualifications set forth
7 in subsection D of this section and enrolls in a qualifying
8 postsecondary vocational-technical program according to this section
9 may complete the prescribed coursework for industry certification,
10 regardless of whether the program is included on the most current
11 list published by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department
12 of Commerce, as long as certification is achieved within five (5)
13 years of the student's first enrollment in the program.

14 I. The State Board of Career and Technology Education and the
15 State Regents for Higher Education shall estimate the amount of
16 revenue deemed necessary to fund the tuition reimbursement awards
17 allowed under this section for the fiscal year which begins July 1,
18 2015, and provide the estimate to the President Pro Tempore of the
19 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within thirty
20 (30) days of passage and approval of this act. Thereafter, the
21 estimates shall be provided annually on October 1 to the President
22 Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives.
24

1 J. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the State
2 Board of Career and Technology Education and the Executive Director
3 of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall promulgate rules as
4 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

5 K. Not later than the end of each calendar year, the State
6 Board of Career and Technology Education and the Oklahoma State
7 Regents for Higher Education shall submit a report to the Governor,
8 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro
9 Tempore of the Senate and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma
10 Department of Commerce containing the number and types of
11 certificates achieved by students who received tuition reimbursement
12 awards under the Oklahoma Career Promise Program.

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

16 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
17 for the State Board of Career and Technology Education to be
18 designated the "Oklahoma Career Promise Revolving Fund". The fund
19 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
20 and shall consist of all monies appropriated or transferred to the
21 fund by the Legislature. All monies accruing to the credit of the
22 fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the
23 State Board of Career and Technology Education to provide Oklahoma
24 Career Promise Program tuition reimbursement awards to eligible

1 students. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants
2 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
3 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
4 Services for approval and payment.

5 ~~SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.~~

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

10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
February 25, 2015 - DO PASS AS AMENDED