

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 404

By: Ford

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to career and technology education;
8 creating the Oklahoma Career Promise Act; providing
9 short title; directing the Executive Director of the
10 Oklahoma Department of Commerce, in certain
11 consultation, to publish a list of certain industry
12 certification areas; directing the State Board of
13 Career and Technology Education, in certain
14 consultation, to identify certain programs;
15 establishing criteria for certain programs; providing
16 for identification of costs; establishing eligibility
17 and providing for verification; providing for
18 funding; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for
19 Higher Education, in certain consultation, to make
20 certain estimate; directing submission of certain
21 report; directing promulgation of rules; creating the
22 Oklahoma Career Promise Revolving Fund; providing for
23 codification; providing an effective date; and
24 declaring an emergency.

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

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

22 Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited
23 as the "Oklahoma Career Promise Act".
24

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 State Board of Career and
6 Technology Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
7 Education, shall publish no later than October 1, 2015, and by June
8 30 each year thereafter, a list of critical industry certification
9 areas that meet the guidelines of the identified core competencies
10 of the state based on wealth generation, growth potential, and
11 competitive advantage.

12 B. The State Board of Career and Technology Education and the
13 State Regents for Higher Education shall identify postsecondary
14 vocational-technical programs offered at technology center schools
15 and institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
16 Education that correlate to industry areas identified by the
17 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The
18 programs shall:

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

23 C. The State Board of Career and Technology Education and the
24 State Regents for Higher Education shall annually identify an

1 average total cost of in-district tuition and fees for each industry
2 certification area identified by the Executive Director of the
3 Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

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

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

11 2. Enroll in a qualifying postsecondary vocational-technical
12 program offered at a technology center school or an institution of
13 higher education.

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

18 F. Subject to the availability of funds, a student who meets
19 the eligibility requirements of subsection D of this section and who
20 achieves a certification through a qualifying postsecondary
21 vocational-technical program offered at a technology center school
22 or an institution of higher education shall be eligible to receive
23 tuition reimbursement assistance. An amount equivalent to the
24 average in-district tuition and fees for which an Oklahoma Career

1 Promise Program participant is obligated shall be awarded by
2 allocation from the Oklahoma Career Promise Revolving Fund created
3 in Section 3 of this act. The amount of the tuition reimbursement
4 shall be reduced by the amount of scholarship and grant aid the
5 student received that could be used for the payment of tuition and
6 applicable fees.

7 G. Tuition reimbursement awards granted pursuant to this
8 section shall be awarded to all eligible participants without any
9 limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the amount
10 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
11 applicants. If funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all
12 eligible participants, available funds shall be distributed on a pro
13 rata basis.

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

22 I. The State Board of Career and Technology Education and the
23 State Regents for Higher Education shall estimate the amount of
24 revenue deemed necessary to fund the tuition reimbursement awards

1 allowed under this section for the fiscal year which begins July 1,
2 2015, and provide the estimate to the President Pro Tempore of the
3 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within thirty
4 (30) days of passage and approval of this act. Thereafter, the
5 estimates shall be provided annually on October 1 to the President
6 Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives.

8 J. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the State
9 Board of Career and Technology Education and the Executive Director
10 of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall promulgate rules as
11 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

12 K. Not later than the end of each calendar year, the State
13 Board of Career and Technology Education and the Oklahoma State
14 Regents for Higher Education shall submit a report to the Governor,
15 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro
16 Tempore of the Senate and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma
17 Department of Commerce containing the number and types of
18 certificates achieved by students who received tuition reimbursement
19 awards under the Oklahoma Career Promise Program.

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

23 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
24 for the State Board of Career and Technology Education to be

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

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

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

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