

By: Leftwich and Fair of the
Senate

and

Lindley of the House

An Act relating to higher education; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to adopt policy allowing certain students to be eligible for enrollment and waiver of nonresident tuition; establishing criteria; requiring compliance with certain admission criteria; imposing additional duty on high school counselors; prohibiting disqualification on certain basis from certain scholarships or financial aid; providing for codification; 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 3242 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall adopt a policy which allows a student to enroll in an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and allows a student to be eligible for a waiver of nonresident tuition if the student:

1. Graduated from a public or private high school in this state or successfully completed the General Educational Development test in this state; and

2. Resided in this state with a parent or guardian for at least two (2) years prior to:

a. graduation from high school, or

b. successful completion of the General Educational
Development test.

B. To be eligible for the provisions of subsection A of this section, an eligible student shall:

1. Satisfy admission standards as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the appropriate type of institution and have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and

2. If the student is without lawful immigration status:

- a. file an affidavit with the institution stating that the student has filed an application or has a petition pending with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to legalize the student's immigration status, or
- b. file an affidavit with the institution stating that the student will file an application to legalize his or her immigration status at the earliest opportunity the student is eligible to do so. High school counselors shall inform immigrant students that they should apply for legal status as soon as possible to enhance their opportunity for higher education in Oklahoma.

C. Any student that meets the criteria prescribed in subsections A and B of this section shall not be disqualified on the basis of the student's immigration status from any scholarships or financial aid provided by this state.

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

Passed the Senate the 26th day of February, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2003.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives