

THE STATE SENATE
Monday, February 24, 2003

Committee Substitute for
Senate Bill No. 596

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 596 - By: LEFTWICH 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; 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:

- 1 a. graduation from high school, or
2 b. successful completion of the General Educational
3 Development test.

4 B. To be granted the tuition waiver provided for in subsection
5 A of this section, an eligible student shall:

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

11 2. If the student is without lawful immigration status:

12 a. file an affidavit with the institution stating that
13 the student has filed an application or has a petition
14 pending with the Immigration and Naturalization
15 Service to legalize the student's immigration status,
16 or

17 b. file an affidavit with the institution stating that
18 the student will file an application to legalize his
19 or her immigration status at the earliest opportunity
20 the student is eligible to do so.

21 C. Any student that meets the criteria prescribed in
22 subsections A and B of this section shall not be disqualified on the

1 basis of the student's immigration status from any scholarships or
2 financial aid provided by this state.

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

7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-19-03 - DO
8 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.