

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE BILL 1036

By: Standridge

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Higher Learning
8 Access Program; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2604,
9 as amended by Section 3, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2017 (70
10 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 2604), which relates to
award allocation; restricting amount of funds awarded
for a certain time period; providing an effective
date; and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2604, as
15 amended by Section 3, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017,
16 Section 2604), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 2604. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an
18 amount equivalent to the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an
19 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is
20 obligated at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
21 Education shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher
22 Learning Access Trust Fund.

1 Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the amount of the
2 award allocated shall not exceed Four Thousand Two Hundred Dollars
3 (\$4,200.00) per person per academic year for two (2) years.

4 B. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled at a
6 private institution of higher learning located within this state and
7 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, the Oklahoma
8 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Oklahoma
9 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund an amount equivalent to the amount
10 of resident tuition for which the student would be eligible if the
11 student were enrolled in a comparable program at a comparable
12 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.
13 Comparability shall be determined by the State Regents.

14 Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the amount of the
15 award allocated shall not exceed Four Thousand Two Hundred Dollars
16 (\$4,200.00) per person per academic year for two (2) years.

17 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent
18 to the tuition for any eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
19 Program student enrolled in a public postsecondary vocational-
20 technical program or course for the purpose set forth in Section
21 2602 of this title shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma
22 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. Provided, such allocation shall
23 not exceed the amount a student would have received for comparable
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1 enrollment at a two-year institution within The Oklahoma State
2 System of Higher Education.

3 Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, the amount of the
4 award allocated shall not exceed Four Thousand Two Hundred Dollars
5 (\$4,200.00) per person per academic year for two (2) years.

6 D. 1. An award allowed by this section shall not be allowed
7 for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the
8 requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more
9 than five (5) years after the student's first semester of
10 postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
11 Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
12 benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5)
13 years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment
14 only in hardship circumstances; provided, however, no Oklahoma
15 Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive benefits
16 beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years.

17 2. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award
18 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for a student's
19 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment
20 taken more than three (3) years after the student graduates from
21 high school or completes an educational program equivalent to high
22 school graduation as authorized in subsection A of Section 2603 of
23 this title or after the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age
24 as authorized in subsection B of Section 2603 of this title if the

1 student is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the
2 Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the
3 Oklahoma National Guard, and is ordered to active duty or active
4 duty for special work or training and due to the duty commitment the
5 student is unable to enroll prior to the end of the three-year
6 period or before the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.
7 The period shall be extended by the length of the term of duty.

8 3. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
9 establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other
10 postsecondary units to which Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
11 benefits will apply.

12 E. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
13 Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any
14 limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the amount
15 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
16 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection F of this
17 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all
18 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
19 shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma
20 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration
21 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when
22 making awards.

23 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the
24 time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Higher Learning

1 Access Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Higher Learning
2 Access Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to such Higher
3 Learning Access Program student. For all academic years, students
4 who have previously received awards under the provisions of the
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, Section 2601 et seq. of this
6 title, and who have continued at all times to fulfill the
7 requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to
8 this program shall be given an absolute priority for continued
9 financial support by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
10 superior to any students who are applying for such benefits for the
11 first time.

12 G. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, an award allowed
13 by this section shall not include an amount for payment of remedial
14 noncredit-earning courses taken by an eligible Oklahoma Higher
15 Learning Access Program student.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2018.

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

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