

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1188

By: Bergstrom

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; providing
8 definition; providing for certain teachers to begin
9 earning certain tuition waivers beginning on certain
10 date; providing for use of certain tuition waivers;
11 prohibiting the use of certain tuition waivers if
12 certain teachers leave public school district
13 employment before certain time period; directing the
14 State Regents for Higher Education to verify certain
15 employment status and history; providing for certain
16 teachers to be given certain tuition waivers based on
17 years of public school district employment; providing
18 eligibility criteria for use of certain tuition
19 waivers; prohibiting the tuition waivers from being
20 used for courses in excess of certain requirements or
21 for courses taken after certain time period;
22 providing for promulgation of rules; providing for
23 codification; providing an effective date; and
24 declaring an emergency.

18 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 3218.7-2 of Title 70, unless
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. For the purposes of this section, "certified classroom
23 teacher" means any certified, full-time teacher who is employed by a
24 public school district in this state and spends seventy-five percent

1 (75%) of his or her school day in the classroom. "Certified
2 classroom teacher" does not include administrators, counselors or
3 support employees.

4 B. 1. Beginning July 1, 2018, a certified classroom teacher
5 shall be eligible to earn a tuition waiver worth twelve (12) credit
6 hours of resident tuition each year the teacher is employed by a
7 public school district to be used for the postsecondary education of
8 the teacher's child or children, subject to the eligibility criteria
9 of subsection D of this section.

10 2. The child of a certified classroom teacher shall be eligible
11 to use the tuition waiver provided pursuant to this section at an
12 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
13 after the teacher has been employed by a public school district for
14 a minimum of ten (10) years. The teacher shall not be required to
15 teach at the same public school district for ten (10) years.

16 3. a. The child of a certified classroom teacher who has
17 been employed by a public school district for a
18 minimum of ten (10) years may begin using the tuition
19 waiver provided pursuant to this section at an
20 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
21 Education beginning the semester after the certified
22 classroom teacher has completed ten (10) years of
23 teaching at a public school district.
24

1 b. The child of a certified classroom teacher who leaves
2 public school district employment prior to attaining
3 fifteen (15) years of employment shall be eligible to
4 use a tuition waiver provided pursuant to this section
5 at an institution within The Oklahoma State System of
6 Higher Education only for the time period between
7 meeting the requirements of subparagraph a of this
8 paragraph and the certified classroom teacher's
9 departure from public school district employment. Any
10 tuition waiver earned and not used after the certified
11 classroom teacher's departure from public school
12 district employment shall be considered forfeit.

13 c. The child of a certified classroom teacher who attains
14 fifteen (15) years of public school district
15 employment shall be guaranteed the use of the tuition
16 waiver provided pursuant to this section at an
17 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
18 Education.

19 4. The State Regents for Higher Education shall verify the
20 employment status and history of a certified classroom teacher with
21 the State Board of Education before awarding any tuition waiver
22 pursuant to this section.

23 C. 1. Beginning July 1, 2018, a currently employed certified
24 classroom teacher who has been employed by a public school district

1 for ten (10) years shall be provided a tuition waiver worth sixty
2 (60) credit hours of resident tuition. On the effective date of
3 this act, a certified classroom teacher who has been employed by a
4 public school district for more than ten (10) years shall be
5 provided an additional tuition waiver worth six (6) credit hours of
6 resident tuition for each additional year of public school district
7 employment up to twenty (20) years, or a maximum of one hundred
8 twenty (120) credit hours of resident tuition. The teacher shall
9 not be required to have been employed by the same public school
10 district for the ten (10) or more years.

11 2. Beginning July 1, 2018, a certified classroom teacher who
12 has been employed by a public school district for ten (10) or more
13 years shall be eligible to earn a tuition waiver worth twelve (12)
14 credit hours of resident tuition each year the teacher is employed
15 by a public school district.

16 3. The tuition waivers provided in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this
17 subsection may be used for the postsecondary education of the
18 teacher's child or children, subject to the eligibility criteria of
19 subsection D of this section.

20 D. To be eligible to use the tuition waivers provided pursuant
21 to this section, the child of a certified classroom teacher shall:

22 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school
23 district located in this state that serves students who reside in
24

1 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as
2 authorized by Section 5-117.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

3 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United
4 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully
5 present in the United States shall not be eligible for a tuition
6 waiver pursuant to this section;

7 3. a. Have graduated within the previous three (3) years
8 from a high school accredited by the State Board of
9 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and
10 Mathematics, with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
11 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
12 grades nine through twelve,

13 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
14 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
15 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
16 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
17 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a

18 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or

19 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
20 three (3) years an educational program that was
21 provided through means other than a public or private
22 school and have achieved a composite score of 22 or
23 higher on the ACT test;

1 4. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
2 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
3 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that
4 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements
5 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-
6 English language or technology courses that meet the college
7 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine
8 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point
9 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a
10 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or
11 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all
12 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this
13 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the
14 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for remediation of high
15 school curricular deficiencies; and

16 5. Have satisfied admission to, and enrolled in, an institution
17 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

18 E. A tuition waiver provided for in this section shall not be
19 allowed for courses taken in excess of the requirements for
20 completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more than eight (8)
21 years after the student's first semester of enrollment in an
22 institution of higher education.

23 F. The State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate
24 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

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

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

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