Bill Summary 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.: SB 1796
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Author: Sen. Boren
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Bill Analysis

SB 1796 prohibits institutions within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or receiving any scholarships or tuition aid funded with state appropriations from requiring any enrolled student to take a leave of absence, withdraw from a program, or limit her studies solely due to pregnancy. Institutions are also directed by the measure to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students. Such accommodations may include allowances for the pregnant student's health and safety, absences due to issues related to the pregnancy, and allowing the student to take make up tests that are missed for pregnancy-related reasons.

Students opting to take leave shall be granted at least 1 academic year of leave to prepare for and take preliminary and qualifying examinations as well as an additional academic year to complete his or her degree or certification. The measure also directs institutions of higher learning permit a pregnant student opting for leave to maintain residency in student housing during her pregnancy and throughout her leave of absence. The measure directs the Office of Civil Rights Enforcement within the Office of the Attorney General to investigate complaints from students alleging pregnancy discrimination in violation of the measure's provisions.

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