

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1614

By: David

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 [Oklahoma Highway Patrol - Oklahoma Highway Patrol
9 Educational Assistance Program - eligibility
10 requirements - Educational Assistance Revolving Fund
11 - codification - effective date]

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

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-105C of Title 47, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. As used in this act:

17 1. "Oklahoma educational institution" means an institution of
18 higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
19 Education;

20 2. "Eligible Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer" means a current
21 officer in good standing who has either an associate's degree or a
22 minimum of sixty-two (62) successfully completed semester hours from
23 an accredited college or university and whose hours are transferable
24 between recognized institutions;

1 3. "Program" means the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Educational
2 Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this
3 section; and

4 4. "Undergraduate program" means a program offered by an
5 Oklahoma educational institution that leads to the award of a
6 baccalaureate degree.

7 B. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Highway Patrol
8 Educational Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible
9 Highway Patrol officers who enroll in an Oklahoma educational
10 institution. The amount of assistance shall be equivalent to the
11 amount of resident tuition for courses in which the eligible Highway
12 Patrol officer is enrolled, not to exceed a maximum of eighteen (18)
13 credit hours each semester.

14 1. The amount of assistance provided to an eligible Highway
15 Patrol officer in an undergraduate program shall not exceed a
16 maximum of sixty (60) credit hours in pursuit of a baccalaureate
17 degree.

18 2. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
19 granted without limitation other than the amount of funds available
20 for the Program and the number of eligible Highway Patrol officers
21 who apply.

22 3. Assistance allowed by this section shall not be allowed for
23 courses taken in excess of the requirements for completion of an
24 undergraduate program for the eligible Highway Patrol officer.

1 C. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
2 allocated to the Oklahoma education institution from the Oklahoma
3 Highway Patrol Educational Assistance Revolving Fund created
4 pursuant to Section 2 of this act.

5 D. 1. To be eligible to apply for the Program, an eligible
6 Highway Patrol officer shall agree in writing to continue in service
7 as a Highway Patrol officer in good standing for not less than
8 twenty-four (24) months after completion of the last semester for
9 which the officer receives assistance pursuant to this section.

10 2. To retain eligibility for the Program, an eligible Highway
11 Patrol officer shall:

- 12 a. maintain good academic standing and satisfactory
13 academic progress according to standards of the
14 Oklahoma educational institution in which the officer
15 is enrolled,
- 16 b. maintain the requirements for retention and degree
17 completion as established by the Oklahoma educational
18 institution in which the member is enrolled,
- 19 c. maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0
20 scale, and
- 21 d. maintain satisfactory performance in the Oklahoma
22 Highway Patrol.

23 E. An eligible Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer seeking
24 assistance pursuant to the provisions of this section shall submit

1 an application on a form prescribed by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol
2 prior to the semester for which assistance is sought. The Chief of
3 the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, or his or her designee, shall confirm a
4 member's standing and eligibility to the Oklahoma educational
5 institution in which the student is enrolled.

6 F. The Chief of the Highway Patrol may deny an application
7 submitted by an eligible Highway Patrol officer for continued
8 Program assistance if he or she fails to comply with the provisions
9 of this section.

10 G. An eligible Highway Patrol officer who has received Program
11 assistance pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails
12 to comply with the provisions of this section shall be required to
13 repay an amount to be determined by rules promulgated by the
14 Department of Public Safety.

15 H. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules to
16 implement the provisions of this act.

17 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-105D of Title 47, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
21 for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to be designated the "Oklahoma
22 Highway Patrol Educational Assistance Revolving Fund". The fund
23 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
24 and shall consist of all monies received by the Department of Public

1 Safety from state appropriations. All monies accruing to the credit
2 of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended
3 by the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of providing
4 assistance to eligible Highway Patrol officers pursuant to the
5 provisions of Section 1 of this act. Expenditures from the fund
6 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against
7 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
8 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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