

March 3, 2022

SENATE BILL NO. 1614

and

Echols of the House

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

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 2-105C of Title 47, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this act:

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

2. "Eligible Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer" means a current officer in good standing who has either an associate's degree or a minimum of sixty-two (62) successfully completed semester hours from

1 an accredited college or university and whose hours are transferable
2 between recognized institutions;

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

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

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

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

20 2. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
21 granted without limitation other than the amount of funds available
22 for the Program and the number of eligible Highway Patrol officers
23 who apply.
24

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

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

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

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

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

1 d. maintain satisfactory performance in the Oklahoma
2 Highway Patrol.

3 E. An eligible Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer seeking
4 assistance pursuant to the provisions of this section shall submit
5 an application on a form prescribed by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol
6 prior to the semester for which assistance is sought. The Chief of
7 the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, or his or her designee, shall confirm a
8 member's standing and eligibility to the Oklahoma educational
9 institution in which the student is enrolled.

10 F. The Chief of the Highway Patrol may deny an application
11 submitted by an eligible Highway Patrol officer for continued
12 Program assistance if he or she fails to comply with the provisions
13 of this section.

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

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

21 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-105D of Title 47, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
24

1 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
2 for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to be designated the "Oklahoma
3 Highway Patrol Educational Assistance Revolving Fund". The fund
4 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
5 and shall consist of all monies received by the Department of Public
6 Safety from state appropriations. All monies accruing to the credit
7 of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended
8 by the Department of Public Safety for the purpose of providing
9 assistance to eligible Highway Patrol officers pursuant to the
10 provisions of Section 1 of this act. Expenditures from the fund
11 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against
12 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
13 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

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

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
16 March 3, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24