

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 2652

By: Echols

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; creating the  
8 Oklahoma Veteran Educational Assistance Act; waiving  
9 enrollment fees and tuition for veterans at certain  
10 institutions; establishing eligibility criteria for  
11 waiver; requiring proof of service; providing for  
12 codification; providing an effective date; and  
13 declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3251 of Title 70, unless there  
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
19 Veteran Educational Assistance Act".

20 B. Subject to the provisions of this section, the enrollment  
21 fees charged to any veteran of the uniformed military services of  
22 the United States or Oklahoma National Guard who enrolls at a  
23 community college or two-year college in The Oklahoma State System  
24 of Higher Education or the tuition charged to any veteran who

1 enrolls in a public postsecondary technology center school or  
2 college shall be waived.

3 C. The educational benefits provided in this act shall:

4 1. Be available for veterans who have previously completed  
5 basic military training, military occupational specialty training or  
6 skill-level training;

7 2. Be available for a period of ten (10) years from the date of  
8 initial membership; and

9 3. Not be available to veterans who have completed a  
10 baccalaureate degree.

11 D. Any veteran who receives a waiver of enrollment fees or  
12 tuition pursuant to the Oklahoma Veteran Educational Assistance Act  
13 shall provide proof of service for a duration of at least four (4)  
14 years by submitting a signed DD Form 214 Report of Separation from  
15 the United States Department of Defense. It shall be the  
16 responsibility of the veteran to obtain a certificate from the  
17 commanding officer attesting to the satisfactory military  
18 performance of the veteran and to present the certificate to the  
19 educational institution in order to obtain an enrollment fee or  
20 tuition waiver.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

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

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