

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 3550

By: Caldwell (Chad)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2606, which relates to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; creating an alternative payback program; specifying requirements of program; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to oversee the alternative payback program; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2606, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2606. A. If a student withdraws from a class in which he or she has received an award from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, the awarded funds shall be returned to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, unless the student completes the alternative payback program outlined in subsection B of this section. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply to awarded funds when a student withdraws prior to the end of the add/drop period for the session in which the student is enrolled.

B. Students who withdrawal from a class in which he or she has received an award from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program

1 may complete the alternative payback program instead of returning
2 the awarded funds. The alternative payback program shall require
3 students to complete one (1) hour of community service per credit
4 hour awarded with a maximum of fifty (50) hours of community
5 service. To count as community service, the student must complete
6 the hours at an organization exempt from federal income tax pursuant
7 to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is
8 located in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
9 Education shall oversee the program.

10 ~~B.~~ C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
11 administer a survey to students who receive an Oklahoma Higher
12 Learning Access Program award and who withdraw from an institution
13 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a private
14 institution of higher learning located within this state and
15 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title or a technology
16 center school before completing a degree or certificate program.
17 The survey shall gather information on the reasons for withdrawal,
18 the barriers to completion of a degree or certificate program and
19 the future plans of the students.

20 ~~C.~~ D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
21 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.
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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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