

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 639
Version:	FS
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Author:	Sen. Pugh
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Bill Analysis

The FS for SB 639 amends the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP), also known as Oklahoma's Promise, to include awards for postsecondary career and technology programs that have been identified as critical occupation areas. The bill directs the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, to publish by October 1, 2021, and each June 30 thereafter a list of critical occupation areas that meet the guidelines of identified core competencies of the state based on wealth generation, growth potential and competitive advantage. It directs the State Regents, in consultation with the State Board of Career and Technology Education, to identify postsecondary vocational-technical programs that correlate to identified critical occupation areas. The measure requires students who receive awards for such programs beginning with the 2022-23 academic year to complete the program within five years. It states that if a student does not complete an identified postsecondary vocational-technical program within 6 years, the student will be required to repay the full amount of award. The FS provides for the institution, when determining the amount to be repaid, to evaluate hardship cases on a case-by-case basis.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor