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February 14, 2023

SENATE BILL NO. 322

By: Seifried of the Senate

and

McBride of the House

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 626.7, which relates to the Oklahoma Higher Education Tuition Aid Act; providing eligibility for certain programs; updating statutory language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 626.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 626.7. A college tuition aid grant may be awarded annually to each eligible, qualified full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an institution of collegiate grade or postsecondary institution providing a program of training to prepare students for employment in a recognized occupation in Oklahoma approved or accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or appropriate postsecondary agency. Eligible programs of training shall include comprehensive transition and postsecondary

1 programs approved by the United States Department of Education.

2 College tuition aid grants shall be awarded in accordance with the
3 following:

4 1. Eligibility. Each full-time or part-time resident student
5 ~~will~~ shall be eligible to receive a grant in an amount as provided

6 in paragraph 2 of this section. The Oklahoma State Regents for
7 Higher Education shall determine by rules and regulations the
8 maximum number of semesters a student may be eligible for grants.

9 No student shall be eligible for grants unless the student maintains
10 ~~such~~ minimum standards of academic performance as are required by
11 the institution in which the student is enrolled.

12 In the event a student for any reason ceases to continue to be
13 enrolled during the course of an academic year, the student shall
14 cease to be eligible for tuition aid.

15 2. Amount of grant. The amount of tuition aid grant to any
16 student under this act for any semester shall represent a percentage
17 not greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the tuition and
18 enrollment fees normally charged to residents of ~~the State of~~
19 ~~Oklahoma~~ this state by the institution of attendance. The Oklahoma
20 State Regents for Higher Education shall determine by rules the
21 annual maximum award amount based on an annual assessment of funds
22 availability.

23 Financial assistance received under this act ~~will~~ shall be
24 considered as part of a student's financial aid package.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
7 February 14, 2023 - DO PASS
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