

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 654

By: Rosino

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to postsecondary education; creating the Captain Steven L. Farley Goldstar Families Act; providing short title; providing certain tuition waivers for surviving spouses and children of certain military members killed after certain date; providing eligibility; providing retention eligibility; directing certain federal benefits to be exhausted prior to waiving of certain tuition; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 3234 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Captain Steven L. Farley Goldstar Families Act".

B. The surviving spouse and children of a member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces who was killed in action or killed in the performance of his or her duty after September 11, 2001, shall be eligible for a waiver of:

1 1. Undergraduate resident tuition at institutions within The
2 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. A student shall be
3 eligible for a tuition waiver for up to five (5) years or completion
4 of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree, whichever comes
5 first; or

6 2. Resident tuition for a postsecondary program at a technology
7 center school operating under the State Board of Career and
8 Technology Education. Students shall be eligible for a tuition
9 waiver for up to five (5) years or completion of a certificate,
10 whichever comes first.

11 C. To be eligible for a tuition waiver, a student shall:

12 1. Be a resident of this state; and

13 2. Have secured admission to and enrolled in an institution
14 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a
15 postsecondary program at a technology center school operating under
16 the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

17 D. To retain eligibility for a tuition waiver, the student
18 shall maintain good academic standing and satisfactory progress
19 according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
20 Education or the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

21 E. A student seeking a tuition waiver pursuant to this section
22 who is eligible for federal education benefits shall exhaust all
23 available federal benefits. Any amount of tuition owed after
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1 federal benefits are exhausted shall be waived by the institution of
2 higher education or the technology center school.

3 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
4 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate
5 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

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

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

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