

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1626

6 By: Goodwin

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
9 and Scholarship Trust; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
10 Sections 2621 and 2623, which relate to
11 administration of the Trust; modifying provisions
12 related to award of scholarships; modifying
13 qualifying income limit; modifying provisions related
14 to number of scholarships; modifying organization for
15 verification; modifying parties involved in
16 administration; providing an effective date; and
17 declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2621, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 2621. There is hereby created the Tulsa Reconciliation
22 Education and Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to
23 provide a scholarship award to residents of the Tulsa School
24 District, which was greatly impacted both socially and economically
by the civil unrest that occurred in the City of Tulsa during 1921.
Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, or as soon thereafter as
practicable, and subject to the availability of funds, the program

1 shall each year make scholarships available to as many as feasible
2 up to three hundred scholarships to qualified residents of the Tulsa
3 School District, and to qualified residents of any other common
4 school district of the state who are direct lineal descendants as
5 defined in subsection C of Section 2623 of this title and who meet
6 the criteria set forth in Sections 2623 and 2624 of this title, and
7 who are intending to pursue studies at an institution of higher
8 education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a
9 private institution of higher education, or who are intending to
10 pursue studies in a postsecondary career technology education
11 program. The scholarship shall be an amount of not more than the
12 equivalent of the average amount of resident tuition for which an
13 eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program
14 participant enrolled at an institution in The Oklahoma State System
15 of Higher Education or a postsecondary career technology education
16 program, whichever is applicable, is obligated to pay. The
17 scholarship shall be paid as provided for in Section 2625 of this
18 title. The further purpose of this program is to establish and
19 maintain a variety of educational support services whereby residents
20 who qualify for the program will be prepared for success in
21 postsecondary endeavors.

22 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2623, is
23 amended to read as follows:

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1 Section 2623. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may annually award a
3 maximum of three hundred full-time-equivalent scholarships for the
4 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to residents
5 of the Tulsa School District.

6 B. To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant shall satisfy the
7 following criteria:

8 1. The family income of the applicant from taxable sources is
9 not more than ~~Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~ One Hundred
10 Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) per year. The Free
11 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form may be used to
12 verify family income;

13 2. The applicant attended a Tulsa public school where seventy-
14 five percent (75%) or more of the students enrolled in the school
15 qualify for the free and reduced lunch program; and

16 3. The applicant resides in a census block area within the
17 Tulsa School District where thirty percent (30%) or more of the
18 residents are at or below the poverty level established by the
19 United States Bureau of the Census.

20 C. The Regents ~~may consider as a~~ and the selection process
21 shall factor in first, ~~when determining the order of preference of~~
22 the applicant or applicants, ~~whether an applicant is a direct lineal~~
23 ~~descendant~~ of a direct lineal descendant of a person who resided in
24 the Greenwood Area in the City of Tulsa between April 30, 1921, and

1 June 1, 1921. If the Regents use descent as a preference factor, it
2 shall be applied to all applicants regardless of race. The
3 applicants shall be required to present verifiable documentation of
4 their lineage. ~~The Oklahoma Historical Society~~ An organization or
5 individual engaged in genealogy and research of descendants and
6 history of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1921 race massacre and Greenwood
7 area shall verify the authenticity and accuracy of the documentation
8 submitted by an applicant and shall ~~establish~~ confirm the boundaries
9 of the Greenwood Area. Verifiable documentation shall include, but
10 not be limited to the following:

11 1. Family records including family Bibles, vital records,
12 correspondence, memoirs, journals, diaries, unrecorded deeds,
13 diplomas, certificates, or testimonials;

14 2. Public records including censuses, government records,
15 military records, pensions, land bounty records, passport
16 applications, passenger lists, original grants, naturalization or
17 immigration records, records of entry, or state, province, or local
18 records; or

19 3. Institutional records including church records, cemetery
20 records and inscriptions, education institutions, insurance records,
21 or societies and fraternal organizations.

22 D. The Regents shall promulgate rules establishing the
23 application requirements for the program and the system for
24 evaluating applications based on the preference factors. The

1 application form shall include a small outlined box graphic,
2 followed by language, "Mark the box, if you are a direct lineal
3 descendant of a person greatly impacted socially and economically
4 during the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre who resided in the Greenwood
5 area of Tulsa, Oklahoma between April 30, 1921 and June 1, 1921."

6 E. Applicants shall also meet the eligibility criteria
7 established in Section 2624 of this title.

8 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall also
9 be authorized to annually award scholarships for the Tulsa
10 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to two students at
11 each of the high schools in the Tulsa School District for the
12 purpose of preserving awareness of the history and meaning of the
13 civil unrest that occurred in Tulsa in 1921. The following
14 provisions shall apply to the scholarship provided in this
15 subsection:

16 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this
17 section, eligibility for the scholarships awarded pursuant to this
18 subsection shall be:

- 19 a. enrollment in the appropriate high school,
20 b. family income of the applicant from taxable sources
21 not to exceed ~~Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~
22 One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00)
23 per year,

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1 c. the awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be
2 as specified in subsection C of this section,

3 d. satisfaction of the criteria specified in Section 2624
4 of this title, and

5 ~~d.~~ e. any other relevant criteria determined by the Oklahoma
6 State Regents for Higher Education;

7 2. The State Regents shall involve the administration of the Tulsa
8 School District and a Community Advisory Committee in the selection
9 process. The Community Advisory Committee shall be comprised of
10 seven members appointed by the Oklahoma Chancellor for Higher
11 Education. The Community Advisory Committee shall combine seven
12 members comprised of the following list:

13 a. One - President of Langston University or Designee,

14 b. One - Superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools or
15 Designee,

16 c. Two - Members of the Oklahoma Legislature representing
17 the Greenwood area in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma or
18 their Designee/s,

19 d. Two - Descendants of socially and economically,
20 adversely impacted persons who resided in the
21 Greenwood area in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma between
22 April 30, 1921 and June 1, 1921,

1 e. One - Citizen with ties to the historic Greenwood
2 community who may be engaged in faith based,
3 education, social, business or advocacy work.

4 The President of Langston University, or Designee, shall be
5 responsible for coordinating the advisory committee and shall submit
6 to the Chancellor for Higher Education a list of proposed committee
7 members for review and approval;

8 3. The award shall be limited to a one-year full-time-
9 equivalent period. Following successful completion of such award,
10 recipients who meet the criteria provided in subsection B of this
11 section shall be eligible to apply and be considered for continued
12 participation in the full Tulsa Reconciliation Education and
13 Scholarship Program. Any student subsequently awarded such
14 scholarship shall have the duration of the scholarship provided
15 pursuant to this subsection deducted from the limits set in
16 subsection D of Section 2625 of this title;

17 4. The award may only be funded with state funds appropriated
18 to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund and
19 income therefrom, and shall be made subject to the availability of
20 such funds; and

21 5. The awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be
22 included within the maximum number of scholarships specified in
23 subsection A of this section.

24 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

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