

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 POLICY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION  
4 FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2398

5 By: Hill

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POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to education; defining terms;  
10 authorizing the State Regents for Higher Education  
11 and the Department of Career and Technology Education  
12 to designate a credential of value; listing criteria  
13 for a credential of value; permitting the designation  
14 of a credential of value if the credential is  
15 determined to be essential to meeting documented  
16 state workforce needs; authorizing the State Regents  
17 and the Department to adopt a definition of self-  
18 sufficient wage; authorizing the State Regents and  
the Department to promulgate rules and determine  
procedures to implement the section; requiring annual  
report from institutions, agencies, and schools on  
data required to evaluate credentials under this  
section; requiring the State Regents and the  
Department to annually publish a statewide credential  
of value list; authorizing the State Regents and the  
Department to enter into data-sharing agreements; and  
providing for codification.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9201 of Title 70, unless there  
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. As used in this section:

1       1. "Coordinating entity" means the Oklahoma State Regents for  
2       Higher Education or the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
3       Education;

4       2. "Credential of value" means a certificate, degree, license,  
5       industry-recognized credential, apprenticeship credential, or other  
6       postsecondary or career-technical award issued by an educational  
7       provider that meets the criteria established under this section;

8       3. "Educational provider" means any institution, agency, or  
9       school coordinated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
10      Education or governed by the Oklahoma Department of Career and  
11      Technology Education; and

12      4. "Net cost of attendance" means the cost of attendance minus  
13      all grants, scholarships, fee waivers, or other aid received by the  
14      individual.

15      B. A coordinating entity may designate a credential as a  
16      credential of value if the credential satisfies the following  
17      criteria:

18      1. The credential provides a positive return on investment for  
19      individuals who complete the credential, demonstrated by:

20       a. cumulative earnings within a time period specified by  
21           the coordinating entity that coordinates or governs  
22           the educational provider that are equal to or exceed  
23           the statewide median earnings for Oklahoma high school  
24           graduates, and

- b. earnings that allow the credential holder to recoup the net cost of attendance within a time period specified by the coordinating entity that coordinates or governs the educational provider; and

2. The credential is aligned with state and regional labor

6 market demand, as determined by the coordinating entity that

7 coordinates or governs the educational provider, using data from the  
8 Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the Oklahoma Workforce  
9 Commission, or other labor market sources recognized by the  
0 coordinating entity.

C. A coordinating entity may designate a credential as a

12 credential of value even if it does not meet one or more criteria  
13 under subsection B of this section if the credential is determined  
14 by the coordinating entity to be essential to meeting documented  
15 state workforce needs.

D. A coordinating entity may adopt a definition of a self-

17 sufficient wage for purposes of this section that aligns with:

1. Statewide self-sufficiency wage benchmarks; or

## 2. Regional economic and labor market data that reflect the

20 cost of living and labor market conditions in Oklahoma.

E. A coordinating entity may promulgate rules and determine

22 procedures to implement the provisions of this section, including:

## 1. Standard methodologies for calculating return on investment

and net cost of attendance;

1       2. Criteria and data sources for assessing alignment with  
2       workforce demand;

3       3. A unified statewide process for designating and periodically  
4       reviewing credentials of value; and

5       4. A shared reporting structure and timeline for all education  
6       providers under the coordination or governance of the coordinating  
7       entity.

8       F. 1. Each educational provider shall annually report the data  
9       required to evaluate credentials under this section to the  
10       coordinating entity that coordinates or governs the educational  
11       provider. Such data shall include, but is not limited to, the  
12       following:

- 13       a. enrollment, completion, and credential attainment,
- 14       b. graduate employment rate and earnings outcomes, and
- 15       c. program cost information.

16       2. A coordinating entity shall annually publish a statewide  
17       credential of value list, accessible to the public, identifying all  
18       credentials designated under this section.

19       G. A coordinating entity may enter into data-sharing agreements  
20       with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the Oklahoma  
21       Workforce Commission, and other state agencies to support the  
22       evaluation and designation of credentials of value.

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