

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3551

6 By: Maynard

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.
9 2021, Section 3242, which relates to eligibility for
10 resident tuition; removing option to file application
11 or affidavit to receive resident tuition; requiring
12 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to verify
13 lawful presence through the SAVE Program; removing
14 outdated reference; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section
15 3242.2, which relates to eligibility for
16 postsecondary education benefits and resident
17 tuition; removing reference to ability to file
18 application or affidavit to receive resident tuition;
19 and providing an effective date.

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

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3242,
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 Section 3242. A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
24 Education may adopt a policy which allows a student to enroll
in an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
Education and allows a student to be eligible for resident
tuition if the student:

1 1. Graduated from a public or private high school in this
2 state; and

3 2. Resided in this state with a parent or legal guardian while
4 attending classes at a public or private high school in this state
5 for at least two (2) years prior to graduation.

6 B. To be eligible for the provisions of subsection A of this
7 section, an eligible student shall:

8 1. Satisfy admission standards as determined by the Oklahoma
9 State Regents for Higher Education for the appropriate type of
10 institution and have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an
11 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;
12 and

13 2. ~~If the student cannot present~~ Present to the State Regents
14 and the institution valid documentation of United States nationality
15 ~~or an immigration status permitting study at a postsecondary~~
16 ~~institution:~~

17 a. ~~provide to the institution a copy of a true and~~
18 ~~correct application or petition filed with the United~~
19 ~~States Citizenship and Immigration Services to~~
20 ~~legalize the student's immigration status, or~~

21 b. ~~file an affidavit with the institution stating that~~
22 ~~the student will file an application to legalize his~~
23 ~~or her immigration status at the earliest opportunity~~

24

1 ~~the student is eligible to do so, but in no case later~~
2 ~~than:~~

3 ~~(1) one (1) year after the date on which the student~~
4 ~~enrolls for study at the institution, or~~

5 ~~(2) if there is no formal process to permit children~~
6 ~~of parents without lawful immigration status to~~
7 ~~apply for lawful status without risk of~~
8 ~~deportation, one (1) year after the date the~~
9 ~~United States Citizenship and Immigration~~
10 ~~Services provide such a formal process, and~~

11 ~~e. if the student files an affidavit pursuant to~~
12 ~~subparagraph b of this paragraph, present to the~~
13 ~~institution a copy of a true and correct application~~
14 ~~or petition filed with the United States Citizenship~~
15 ~~and Immigration Services no later than:~~

16 ~~(1) one (1) year after the date on which the student~~
17 ~~enrolls for study at the institution, or~~

18 ~~(2) if there is no formal process to permit children~~
19 ~~of parents without lawful immigration status to~~
20 ~~apply for lawful status without risk of~~
21 ~~deportation, one (1) year after the date the~~
22 ~~United States Citizenship and Immigration~~
23 ~~Services provide such a formal process, which~~
24

1 ~~copy shall be maintained in the institution's~~
2 ~~records for that student.~~

3 ~~C. Any student who completes the required criteria prescribed~~
4 ~~in subsection A of this section, paragraph 1 of subsection B of this~~
5 ~~section, and subparagraph a of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this~~
6 ~~section shall not be disqualified on the basis of the student's~~
7 ~~immigration status from any scholarships or financial aid provided~~
8 ~~by this state.~~

9 ~~D. The provisions of this section shall not impose any~~
10 ~~additional conditions to maintain resident tuition status at a~~
11 ~~postsecondary educational institution within The Oklahoma State~~
12 ~~System of Higher Education on a student who was enrolled in a degree~~
13 ~~program and first received such resident tuition status at that~~
14 ~~institution during the 2006-2007 school year or any prior year of~~
15 ~~status as an alien lawfully present in the United States. The State~~
16 ~~Regents shall verify a student's status as an alien lawfully present~~
17 ~~in the United States through the federal Systematic Alien~~
18 ~~Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.~~

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3242.2, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 3242.2. A. ~~Except as otherwise provided in Section~~
22 ~~3242 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, an An individual who is~~
23 ~~not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible on~~
24 ~~the basis of residence within the state for:~~

1 1. Any postsecondary education benefit, including, but not
2 limited to, scholarships or financial aid; or

3 2. Resident tuition.

4 ~~B. The provisions of subsection A of this section shall not~~
5 ~~apply to a student enrolled in a degree program at a postsecondary~~
6 ~~educational institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher~~
7 ~~Education during the 2006-2007 school year or any prior year who~~
8 ~~received a resident tuition benefit pursuant to Section 3242 of~~
9 ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes at that institution.~~

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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