

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1054

By: Goodwin, Boren, and Nice of
the Senate

3 and

4 Lowe (Jason) of the House

5
6 An Act relating to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
7 and Scholarship Program; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
8 Sections 2621, 2623, and 2625, which relate to
9 creation of and eligibility for the program;
10 modifying eligibility for program; updating statutory
11 language; increasing income limit for certain
12 eligibility; exempting certain applicants from
13 certain income limit; allowing certain form to be
14 used to verify income; removing certain eligibility
15 criteria; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for
16 Higher Education to give first priority status to
17 certain applicants; modifying process for verifying
18 documentation of lineage; requiring application form
19 to include certain language; directing awards to be
20 made in certain specified manner; directing the State
21 Regents to involve certain community advisory
22 committee in selection process; providing for
23 composition of and appointments to advisory
24 committee; directing certain university president to
submit a list of proposed members; directing advisory
committee to review certain applications and make
certain recommendations; directing the State Regents
to select recipients from certain list; allowing
certain remaining scholarship award funds to be used
for certain purposes; directing certain applicants to
always be given first priority status; and declaring
an emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2621, is
23 amended to read as follows:
24

1 Section 2621. There is hereby created the Tulsa Reconciliation
2 Education and Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to
3 provide a scholarship award to residents of the Tulsa School
4 District, which was greatly impacted both socially and economically
5 by the civil unrest that occurred in the City of Tulsa during 1921.
6 Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, or as soon thereafter as
7 practicable, and subject to the availability of funds, the program
8 shall each year make scholarships available to as many students as
9 feasible, up to three hundred scholarships, to qualified residents
10 of the Tulsa School District, and to qualified students of any other
11 public school district in the United States who are direct lineal
12 descendants as defined in subsection C of Section 2623 of this title
13 and who meet the criteria set forth in Sections 2623 and 2624 of
14 this title, and who are intending to pursue studies at an
15 institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of
16 Higher Education or a private institution of higher education, in
17 this state or who are intending to pursue studies in a postsecondary
18 career and technology education program in this state. The
19 scholarship shall be an amount ~~of not more than~~ not exceeding the
20 equivalent of the average amount of resident tuition for which an
21 eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program
22 participant enrolled at an institution of higher education in The
23 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a postsecondary career
24 and technology education program, whichever is applicable, is

1 obligated to pay. The scholarship shall be paid as provided for in
2 Section 2625 of this title. The further purpose of this program is
3 to establish and maintain a variety of educational support services
4 whereby ~~residents~~ students who qualify for the program will be
5 prepared for success in postsecondary endeavors.

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

8 Section 2623. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may annually award a
10 maximum of three hundred full-time-equivalent scholarships for the
11 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to residents
12 of the Tulsa School District and to qualified students of any other
13 public school district in the United States who are direct lineal
14 descendants as defined in subsection C of this section and who are
15 intending to pursue studies at an institution of higher education in
16 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a private
17 institution of higher education in this state or who are intending
18 to pursue studies in a postsecondary career and technology education
19 program in this state.

20 B. To qualify for a scholarship, the family income of an
21 applicant shall ~~satisfy the following criteria:~~

22 ~~1. The family income of the applicant,~~ from taxable sources ~~is~~
23 ~~not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00),~~ not exceed One
24 Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) per year. There

1 shall be no family income limit for an applicant who is a direct
2 lineal descendant as defined in subsection C of this section. The
3 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form may be used to
4 verify family income.

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

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

12 C. ~~The State Regents may consider as a~~ Regents' selection
13 process shall factor, when determining the order of preference of
14 give first priority status to applicants, whether an applicant who
15 is a direct lineal descendant of a person who resided in the
16 Greenwood Area in the City of Tulsa between April 30, 1921, and June
17 1, 1921, and was a victim of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. If the
18 ~~Regents use~~ Use of descent as a preference factor, it shall be
19 applied to all applicants regardless of race. The applicants shall
20 be required to present verifiable documentation of their lineage.
21 ~~The Oklahoma Historical Society~~ An organization or individual
22 engaged in genealogy and research of descendants and history of the
23 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and Greenwood Area shall verify the
24 authenticity and accuracy of the documentation submitted by an

1 applicant and shall ~~establish~~ confirm the boundaries of the
2 Greenwood Area. Verifiable documentation shall include, but not be
3 limited to, the following:

4 1. Family records including family bibles, vital records,
5 correspondence, memoirs, journals, diaries, unrecorded deeds,
6 diplomas, certificates, or testimonials;

7 2. Public records including censuses, government records,
8 military records, pensions, land bounty records, passport
9 applications, passenger lists, original grants, naturalization or
10 immigration records, records of entry, or state, province, or local
11 records; or

12 3. Institutional records including church records, cemetery
13 records and inscriptions, education institutions, insurance records,
14 or societies and fraternal organizations.

15 D. The State Regents shall promulgate rules establishing the
16 application requirements for the program and the system for
17 evaluating applications based on the preference factors. The
18 application form shall include a small outlined box graphic,
19 followed by the following language: "Mark the box if you are a
20 direct lineal descendant of a victim greatly impacted socially and
21 economically during the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre who resided in the
22 Greenwood Area of Tulsa, Oklahoma, between April 30, 1921, and June
23 1, 1921."
24

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

3 F. ~~The Oklahoma~~ In addition to the scholarships authorized
4 pursuant to Section 2621 of this title and this section, the State
5 Regents for Higher Education shall also be authorized to annually
6 award scholarships for the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and
7 Scholarship Program to two students at each of the high schools in
8 the Tulsa School District for the purpose of preserving awareness of
9 the history and meaning of the civil unrest that occurred in Tulsa
10 in 1921. The following provisions shall apply to the ~~scholarship~~
11 scholarships provided in this subsection:

12 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this
13 section, eligibility for the scholarships awarded pursuant to this
14 subsection shall be:

- 15 a. enrollment in the appropriate high school,
- 16 b. family income of the applicant from taxable sources
17 not to exceed ~~Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~
18 One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00)
19 per year. There shall be no family income limit for
20 an applicant who is a direct lineal descendant as
21 defined in subsection C of this section,
- 22 c. made as provided for in subsection C of this section,
- 23 d. satisfaction of the criteria specified in Section 2624
24 of this title, and

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

3 2. The State Regents shall involve the administration of the
4 Tulsa School District and a community advisory committee in the
5 selection process. The community advisory committee shall be
6 comprised of seven (7) members appointed by the Chancellor of Higher
7 Education. The community advisory committee shall be comprised of:

8 a. the President of Langston University or his or her
9 designee,

10 b. the Superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools or his or
11 her designee,

12 c. two members of the Legislature representing the
13 Greenwood area in the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, or
14 their designees,

15 d. two descendants of socially and economically adversely
16 impacted persons who resided in the Greenwood Area in
17 the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, between April 30, 1921
18 and June 1, 1921, and

19 e. a citizen with ties to the historic Greenwood
20 community who may be engaged in faith-based,
21 education, or social, business, or advocacy work.

22 The President of Langston University, or his or her designee,
23 shall be responsible for coordinating with the community advisory
24 committee and shall submit to the Chancellor of Higher Education a

1 list of proposed committee members for review and approval. The
2 community advisory committee shall review scholarship applications
3 and make recommendations for scholarship recipients and scholarship
4 award amounts. The State Regents shall select scholarship
5 recipients from the list of recommendations provided pursuant to
6 this paragraph;

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

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

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

23 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2625, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 2625. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an
2 amount of not more than the equivalent of the average amount of
3 resident tuition for which an eligible Tulsa Reconciliation
4 Education and Scholarship Program participant enrolled in an
5 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, or
6 enrolled in a postsecondary career and technology education program,
7 whichever is applicable, is obligated to pay shall be awarded by
8 allocation from the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship
9 Trust Fund.

10 B. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible
11 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program participant
12 enrolled at a private institution of higher education, the Oklahoma
13 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Tulsa
14 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund an amount of not
15 more than the equivalent of the average amount of resident tuition
16 for which the participant would be eligible if the participant were
17 enrolled in a program at an institution of The Oklahoma State System
18 of Higher Education.

19 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount of not more
20 than the equivalent of the average amount of tuition for which an
21 eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program
22 participant enrolled in a postsecondary career and technology
23 education program is obligated to pay shall be awarded by allocation
24 from the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund.

1 The allocation shall not exceed the amount a participant would have
2 received for enrollment at a two-year institution within The
3 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

4 D. Benefits awarded under the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
5 and Scholarship Program shall not be allowed for courses or other
6 postsecondary units taken in excess of the requirements for
7 completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more than five (5)
8 years after the student's first semester of participation in the
9 program. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award
10 the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program benefits
11 for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5) years
12 after the student's first semester of participation in the program
13 only in hardship circumstances. No Tulsa Reconciliation Education
14 and Scholarship Program participant may receive benefits beyond a
15 cumulative time period of five (5) years. The Oklahoma State
16 Regents for Higher Education may establish a maximum limit on the
17 number of courses or other postsecondary units to which Tulsa
18 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program benefits will
19 apply. An award to an eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and
20 Scholarship Program participant who is enrolled in a postsecondary
21 career and technology education program may be used to pay for both
22 career and technology education and college work if both are
23 required by the program.

1 E. Benefits awarded under the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
2 and Scholarship Program shall be awarded to not more than ~~300~~ three
3 hundred (300) eligible participants annually, subject to the amount
4 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
5 participants. Subject to the provisions of subsection F of this
6 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for the
7 maximum number of eligible participants each year, the Oklahoma
8 State Regents for Higher Education shall make awards on the basis of
9 need. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall take
10 into consideration other grants and scholarships received by an
11 eligible student when making awards. If ~~an eligible student~~
12 ~~receives other grants and scholarships~~ scholarship award funds
13 remain after payment of resident tuition, the benefits awarded under
14 the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program may cover
15 any additional educational costs not covered by the other grants and
16 scholarships including, but not limited to, fees, required textbooks
17 or materials, and room and board. If the family of an eligible
18 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program participant
19 may qualify for the federal Hope Scholarship or Lifetime Learning
20 tax credit as provided for in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, P.L.
21 No. 105-34, the participant may elect to use the award allowed by
22 this section to pay for fees, required textbooks or materials and,
23 if any funds remain, to pay for room and board instead of resident
24 tuition.

1 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the
2 time an award is made on behalf of a Tulsa Reconciliation Education
3 and Scholarship Program participant, set aside in the Tulsa
4 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund funds for the
5 full commitment made to such Tulsa Reconciliation Education and
6 Scholarship Program participant. For all academic years,
7 participants who have previously received awards under the
8 provisions of the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Act
9 and who have continued at all times to fulfill the requirements for
10 eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to this program
11 shall be given ~~an absolute~~ priority for continued financial support
12 by the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program
13 superior to any ~~residents~~ students who are applying for such
14 benefits for the first time; provided, however, that scholarship
15 applicants who are direct lineal descendants as defined in
16 subsection C of Section 2623 of this title shall always be given
17 first priority status.

18 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
19 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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1 Passed the Senate the 26th day of March, 2025.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2025.

7
8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives