

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 24, 2026

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1262

By: Gillespie of the Senate

and

May of the House

6
7
8
9 [education - tuition waiver - rules - Trust Fund -
10 codification - effective date -
11 emergency]

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

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3218.7-2 of Title 70, unless
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. An individual who was a victim of human trafficking for
17 commercial sex or human trafficking for labor, as such terms are
18 defined in Section 748 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, who was
19 under the age of eighteen (18) and a resident of this state at the
20 time of the offense shall be eligible for a waiver of:

- 21 1. Undergraduate resident tuition at an institution of higher
22 education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; or
23 2. Tuition at a technology center school under the governance
24 of the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

1 B. A tuition waiver provided for in subsection A of this
2 section shall be limited to five (5) years.

3 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent
4 to the nonguaranteed resident tuition at an institution of higher
5 education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or
6 the tuition for a career and technology program at a technology
7 center school under the governance of the State Board of Career and
8 Technology Education in which an eligible student is enrolled shall
9 be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
10 Trust Fund created pursuant to Section 3953.1 of Title 70 of the
11 Oklahoma Statutes. Tuition waivers granted pursuant to the
12 provisions of this section shall be awarded to all eligible students
13 without limitation other than the amount of funds available and the
14 number of eligible students.

15 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
16 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate
17 rules to implement the provisions of this section including, but not
18 limited to, tuition waiver application requirements and a process
19 for verifying eligibility for a tuition waiver with the Office of
20 the Attorney General.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3953.1, as
22 amended by Section 4, Chapter 330, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,
23 Section 3953.1), is amended to read as follows:

24

1 Section 3953.1. A. There is hereby created a trust fund to be
2 known as the "Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund". The
3 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be the trustees of
4 the Trust Fund.

5 B. The State Regents shall utilize the Trust Fund to implement
6 the provisions of Sections 2601 through 2605 of this title ~~and,~~
7 Sections ~~±~~ 2501 through ~~±~~ 2503 of this ~~act~~ title, and Section 1 of
8 this act.

9 C. The Trust Fund principal shall consist of monies the
10 Legislature appropriates or transfers to the Oklahoma State Regents
11 for Higher Education for the Trust Fund and any monies or assets
12 contributed to the Trust Fund from any other source, public or
13 private. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
14 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State Regents.
15 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the
16 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
17 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
18 approval and payment.

19 D. Notwithstanding other provisions of law, income and
20 investment return on Trust Fund principal shall accrue to the Trust
21 Fund for use as provided by authorization of the trustees for the
22 purposes provided in Sections 2601 through 2605 of this title ~~and,~~
23 Sections ~~±~~ 2501 through ~~±~~ 2503 of this ~~act~~ title, and Section 1 of
24 this act. The State Regents may also utilize the Trust Fund

1 principal for the purposes provided in Sections 2601 through 2605 of
2 this title ~~and~~, Sections ~~±~~ 2501 through ~~±~~ 2503 of this ~~act~~ title,
3 and Section 1 of this act. Except as otherwise provided by law, no
4 such income or investment return or principal shall be used for
5 administrative expenses; expenses incurred by the State Regents in
6 the administration of the Trust Fund and of the Oklahoma Higher
7 Learning Access Program established by the Oklahoma Higher Learning
8 Access Act ~~and~~, the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Program
9 established by the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Act, and the
10 tuition waiver established by Section 1 of this act shall be paid
11 from monies appropriated to the State Regents coordinating board for
12 their general operating budget.

13 E. The State Regents shall adopt rules for accomplishing
14 transfer of funds from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust
15 Fund to the appropriate institutional Educational and General
16 Operations Revolving Funds, as provided in Section 3901 of this
17 title, to private institutions, and to the appropriate technology
18 center school ~~district~~ districts to cover general enrollment fees or
19 tuition for eligible students pursuant to the Oklahoma Higher
20 Learning Access Act and the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Act and
21 to cover tuition for eligible students pursuant to Section 1 of this
22 act. Allocations from the Trust Fund may be made only for the
23 purpose of covering the general enrollment fees or tuition of
24 eligible students. No portion of the Trust Fund may be used or

1 allocated for administrative or operating expenses of any higher
2 education institution or technology center school.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
9 February 24, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS

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