

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1336

By: Thompson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to education; creating the Oklahoma Veterans Higher Education Access Act; providing short title; defining terms; providing a waiver of tuition and fees at certain institutions; providing a waiver of tuition at certain technology center schools; providing for calculation of waiver amount; providing for use of waivers; requiring exhaustion of certain federal benefits first; directing the Legislature to annually provide certain funding amount, subject to availability; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3234 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Veterans Higher Education Access Act".

B. As used in this act:

1. "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and

1 2. "Eligible veteran" means a resident of this state who served
2 in the United States Armed Forces, who was granted an honorable
3 discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions, and who
4 has a service-connected disability rated at sixty percent (60%) or
5 more by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the
6 United States Armed Forces.

7 C. An eligible veteran shall be eligible for a waiver of:

8 1. Undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees at an eligible
9 institution in an amount calculated pursuant to subsection D of this
10 section; or

11 2. Tuition at a technology center school under the governance
12 of the State Board of Career and Technology Education in an amount
13 calculated pursuant to subsection D of this section.

14 D. The waiver amount shall be:

15 1. For an eligible veteran with a service-connected disability
16 rated at sixty percent (60%):

17 a. fifty percent (50%) of the undergraduate tuition and
18 mandatory fees at an eligible institution, or

19 b. fifty percent (50%) of the tuition at a technology
20 center school;

21 2. For an eligible veteran with a service-connected disability
22 rated at seventy percent (70%):
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1 a. seventy-five percent (75%) of the undergraduate
2 tuition and mandatory fees at an eligible institution,
3 or

4 b. seventy-five percent (75%) of the tuition at a
5 technology center school;

6 3. For an eligible veteran with a service-connected disability
7 rated at eighty percent (80%):

8 a. eighty percent (80%) of the undergraduate tuition and
9 mandatory fees at an eligible institution, or

10 b. eighty percent (80%) of the tuition at a technology
11 center school;

12 4. For an eligible veteran with a service-connected disability
13 rated at ninety percent (90%) or total disability based on
14 individual unemployability:

15 a. ninety percent (90%) of the undergraduate tuition and
16 mandatory fees at an eligible institution, or

17 b. ninety percent (90%) of the tuition at a technology
18 center school; or

19 5. For an eligible veteran with a service-connected disability
20 rated at one hundred percent (100%) or permanent and total
21 disability:

22 a. one hundred percent (100%) of the undergraduate
23 tuition and mandatory fees at an eligible institution,
24 or

1 b. one hundred percent (100%) of the tuition at a
2 technology center school.

3 E. A waiver granted pursuant to this section shall only be used
4 for:

5 1. Undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees at an eligible
6 institution not to exceed one hundred fifty (150) credit hours. A
7 waiver allowed by this section shall not be used for remedial or
8 noncredit-earning courses, courses taken in excess of the
9 requirements for completion of an undergraduate program, textbooks,
10 room, or board; or

11 2. Tuition at a technology center school for a career and
12 technology program leading to certification or licensure, not to
13 exceed three (3) years.

14 F. An eligible veteran seeking a waiver pursuant to this
15 section who is eligible for federal education benefits shall exhaust
16 all such federal benefits first.

17 G. Subject to the availability of funding, the Legislature
18 shall annually provide the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
19 Education and the State Board of Career and Technology Education a
20 funding amount equal to the waivers granted pursuant to this
21 section.

22 H. The State Regents and the State Board of Career and
23 Technology Education shall promulgate rules to implement the
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1 provisions of this section. The rules shall include, but not be
2 limited to:

- 3 1. Establishment of application requirements and deadlines; and
- 4 2. Procedures to verify an eligible veteran's service-connected
5 disability rating.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

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