

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 2961

By: Hildebrant

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to postsecondary education; waiving tuition for the spouse and children of a Gold Star recipient; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3218.7-1, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 382, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 3218.7-1), which relates to waiver of room and board fees; adding the spouse and children of a Gold Star recipient; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 14-134 and 14-134.1, which relate to tuition and fees within the system of career and technology districts; waiving tuition and fees for the spouse and children of a Gold Star recipient; 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 3218.7-2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, no resident tuition or nonresident tuition shall be charged to the spouse or children of a Gold Star recipient who was killed in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, provided that either:

1        1. The Gold Star recipient was a legal resident of the State of  
2 Oklahoma at the time of death; or

3        2. The spouse or child maintains residency in the State of  
4 Oklahoma during enrollment.

5        SECTION 2.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 3218.7-1, as  
6 amended by Section 2, Chapter 382, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,  
7 Section 3218.7-1), is amended to read as follows:

8        Section 3218.7-1. A. Within The Oklahoma State System of  
9 Higher Education, no fees nor room and board shall be charged to:

10        1. Children of Oklahoma peace officers as defined by Section  
11 648 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes who have given their lives  
12 in the line of duty;

13        2. Children of Oklahoma firefighters who have given their lives  
14 in the line of duty;

15        3. Children of commissioned members of the Oklahoma Law  
16 Enforcement Retirement System, who have given their lives in the  
17 line of duty; ~~and~~

18        4. Children of Oklahoma emergency medical technicians who have  
19 given their lives in the line of duty; and

20        5. The spouse or children of a Gold Star recipient who was  
21 killed in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed  
22 Forces, provided that either:

23            a. the Gold Star recipient was a legal resident of the  
24            State of Oklahoma at the time of death, or

1           b.   the spouse or child maintains residency in the State  
2           of Oklahoma during enrollment.

3           B.   Such waiver of fees and room and board shall be limited to a  
4 period of five (5) years.

5           C.   Such waiver of fees and room and board shall be a service  
6 benefit of a commissioned member of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement  
7 Retirement System.

8           D.   For purposes of this section:

9           1.   "Firefighter" means a volunteer firefighter or a permanent  
10 salaried professional member of any fire department within the State  
11 of Oklahoma; and

12          2.   "Emergency medical technician" means a person volunteering  
13 or employed as an emergency medical technician and who is licensed  
14 as an emergency medical technician pursuant to Section 1-2505 of  
15 Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

16          SECTION 3.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-134, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18          Section 14-134.   A.   Within the system of career technology  
19 districts, no resident tuition or nonresident tuition shall be  
20 charged to ~~the~~:

21          1.   Children of Oklahoma peace officers as defined by Section  
22 648 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes who have given their lives  
23 in the line of duty;

1        2. Children of Oklahoma firefighters who have given their lives  
2 in the line of duty;

3        3. Children of members of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement  
4 Retirement System who have given their lives in the line of duty or  
5 whose disability is by means of personal and traumatic injury of a  
6 catastrophic nature, as defined by Section 2-300 of Title 47 of the  
7 Oklahoma Statutes, and occurred in the line of duty; ~~and~~

8        4. Children of Oklahoma emergency medical technicians who have  
9 given their lives in the line of duty; and

10        5. The spouse or children of a Gold Star recipient who was  
11 killed in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed  
12 Forces, provided that either:

13            a. the Gold Star recipient was a legal resident of the  
14 State of Oklahoma at the time of death, or

15            b. the spouse or child maintains residency in the State  
16 of Oklahoma during enrollment.

17        B. Such waiver of resident tuition and nonresident tuition  
18 shall be limited to a period of five (5) years.

19        C. Such waiver of resident tuition or nonresident tuition to  
20 the children of deceased peace officers and to the children of  
21 deceased firefighters as provided for in this section shall be a  
22 service benefit of each Oklahoma peace officer and Oklahoma  
23 firefighter.

24        D. For purposes of this section:

1        1. "Firefighter" means a volunteer firefighter or a permanent  
2        salaried professional member of any fire department within the State  
3        of Oklahoma; and

4        2. "Emergency medical technician" means a person volunteering  
5        or employed as an emergency medical technician and who is licensed  
6        as an emergency medical technician pursuant to Section 1-2505 of  
7        Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

8        SECTION 4.        AMENDATORY        Section 3, Chapter 382, O.S.L.  
9        2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 14-134.1), is amended to read as  
10       follows:

11       Section 14-134.1. A. Within the system of career technology  
12       districts, no fees shall be charged to:

13       1. Children of Oklahoma peace officers as defined by Section  
14       648 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes who have given their lives  
15       in the line of duty;

16       2. Children of Oklahoma firefighters who have given their lives  
17       in the line of duty;

18       3. Children of commissioned members of the Oklahoma Law  
19       Enforcement Retirement System, who have given their lives in the  
20       line of duty; ~~and~~

21       4. Children of Oklahoma emergency medical technicians who have  
22       given their lives in the line of duty; and

1       5. The spouse or children of a Gold Star recipient who was  
2 killed in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed  
3 Forces, provided that either:

4           a. the Gold Star recipient was a legal resident of the  
5           State of Oklahoma at the time of death, or

6           b. the spouse or child maintains residency in the State  
7           of Oklahoma during enrollment.

8       B. Such waiver of fees shall be limited to a period of five (5)  
9 years.

10       C. Such waiver of fees shall be a service benefit of a  
11 commissioned member of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement  
12 System.

13       D. For purposes of this section:

14       1. "Firefighter" means a volunteer firefighter or a permanent  
15 salaried professional member of any fire department within the State  
16 of Oklahoma; and

17       2. "Emergency medical technician" means a person volunteering  
18 or employed as an emergency medical technician and who is licensed  
19 as an emergency medical technician pursuant to Section 1-2505 of  
20 Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

21       SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

22       SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
24

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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