

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 3551

By: Maynard

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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13 outdated reference; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 July 1, 2026.

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

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16 60-2-14155 AQH 12/01/25
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