

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 1262

By: Gillespie of the Senate

and

May of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to education; providing certain tuition waiver for individuals who are victims of certain offenses; limiting use of waiver for certain time period; directing certain amount to be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund; directing tuition waivers to be awarded based on available funding and the number of eligible students; providing for promulgation of rules; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3953.1, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 330, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 3953.1), which relates to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund; expanding use of fund for certain purpose; updating statutory references; updating statutory language; 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:

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

6 1. Undergraduate resident tuition at an institution of higher
7 education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; or

8 2. Tuition at a technology center school under the governance
9 of the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

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

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

1 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
2 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate
3 rules to implement the provisions of this section including, but not
4 limited to, tuition waiver application requirements and a process
5 for verifying eligibility for a tuition waiver with the Office of
6 the Attorney General.

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

10 Section 3953.1. A. There is hereby created a trust fund to be
11 known as the "Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund". The
12 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be the trustees of
13 the Trust Fund.

14 B. The State Regents shall utilize the Trust Fund to implement
15 the provisions of Sections 2601 through 2605 of this title ~~and,~~
16 Sections ~~±~~ 2501 through ~~±~~ 2503 of this ~~act~~ title, and Section 1 of
17 this act.

18 C. The Trust Fund principal shall consist of monies the
19 Legislature appropriates or transfers to the Oklahoma State Regents
20 for Higher Education for the Trust Fund and any monies or assets
21 contributed to the Trust Fund from any other source, public or
22 private. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
23 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State Regents.
24 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the

1 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
2 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
3 approval and payment.

4 D. Notwithstanding other provisions of law, income and
5 investment return on Trust Fund principal shall accrue to the Trust
6 Fund for use as provided by authorization of the trustees for the
7 purposes provided in Sections 2601 through 2605 of this title ~~and,~~
8 Sections ~~±~~ 2501 through ~~±~~ 2503 of this ~~act~~ title, and Section 1 of
9 this act. The State Regents may also utilize the Trust Fund
10 principal for the purposes provided in Sections 2601 through 2605 of
11 this title ~~and,~~ Sections ~~±~~ 2501 through ~~±~~ 2503 of this ~~act~~ title,
12 and Section 1 of this act. Except as otherwise provided by law, no
13 such income or investment return or principal shall be used for
14 administrative expenses; expenses incurred by the State Regents in
15 the administration of the Trust Fund and of the Oklahoma Higher
16 Learning Access Program established by the Oklahoma Higher Learning
17 Access Act ~~and,~~ the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Program
18 established by the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Act, and the
19 tuition waiver established by Section 1 of this act shall be paid
20 from monies appropriated to the State Regents coordinating board for
21 their general operating budget.

22 E. The State Regents shall adopt rules for accomplishing
23 transfer of funds from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust
24 Fund to the appropriate institutional Educational and General

1 Operations Revolving Funds, as provided in Section 3901 of this
2 title, to private institutions, and to the appropriate technology
3 center school ~~district~~ districts to cover general enrollment fees or
4 tuition for eligible students pursuant to the Oklahoma Higher
5 Learning Access Act and the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Act and
6 to cover tuition for eligible students pursuant to Section 1 of this
7 act. Allocations from the Trust Fund may be made only for the
8 purpose of covering the general enrollment fees or tuition of
9 eligible students. No portion of the Trust Fund may be used or
10 allocated for administrative or operating expenses of any higher
11 education institution or technology center school.

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

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

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