

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 2040

6 By: Goodwin

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8
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
11 and Scholarship Program; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
12 Sections 2621, 2623, and 2625, which relate to
13 creation of and eligibility for the program;
14 providing purpose of program; modifying eligibility
15 for program; increasing income limit for certain
16 eligibility; directing income limit to be adjusted
17 annually; exempting certain applicants from certain
18 income limit; allowing certain form to be used to
19 verify income; removing certain eligibility criteria;
20 directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
21 Education to give first priority status to certain
22 applicants; modifying process for verifying
23 documentation of lineage; directing certain rules to
24 include certain criteria; requiring application form
to include certain language; removing language
authorizing annual award of scholarships to certain
students; directing the State Regents to involve
certain community advisory committee in selection
process; providing for composition of and
appointments to advisory committee; directing certain
university president to submit a list of proposed
members; directing advisory committee to review
certain applications and make certain
recommendations; directing the State Regents to
select recipients from certain list; prescribing
income limitation for eligibility retention; limiting
the number of scholarships that may be awarded to
certain students; defining term; directing certain

1 students to be given priority; allowing certain
2 grants and scholarships to be used on certain
3 expenses; directing certain applicants to always be
4 given first priority status; updating statutory
5 language; and declaring an emergency.

6
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

8 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2621, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 2621. There is hereby created the Tulsa Reconciliation
11 Education and Scholarship Program to preserve awareness of the
12 history and meaning of the civil unrest that occurred in Tulsa in
13 1921. The purpose of the program is to provide a scholarship award
14 to ~~residents~~ high school students of the Tulsa School District,
15 which was greatly impacted both socially and economically by the
16 civil unrest that occurred in the City of Tulsa during 1921.
17 Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, or as soon thereafter as
18 practicable, and subject to the availability of funds, the program
19 shall each year make scholarships available to as many students as
20 feasible, up to three hundred scholarships, to qualified ~~residents~~
21 students of the Tulsa School District, and to qualified students of
22 any other public school district in this state who are direct lineal
23 descendants as defined in subsection C of Section 2623 of this title
24 and who meet the criteria set forth in Sections 2623 and 2624 of

1 this title, and who are intending to pursue studies at an
2 institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of
3 Higher Education or a private institution of higher education, in
4 this state or who are intending to pursue studies in a postsecondary
5 career and technology education program in this state. The
6 scholarship shall be an amount ~~of not more than~~ not exceeding the
7 equivalent of the average amount of resident tuition for which an
8 eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program
9 participant enrolled at an institution of higher education in The
10 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a postsecondary career
11 and technology education program, whichever is applicable, is
12 obligated to pay. The scholarship shall be paid as provided for in
13 Section 2625 of this title. The further purpose of this program is
14 to establish and maintain a variety of educational support services
15 whereby ~~residents~~ students who qualify for the program will be
16 prepared for success in postsecondary endeavors.

17 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2623, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 2623. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
20 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education ~~may~~ shall annually award
21 ~~a maximum of~~ up to three hundred full-time-equivalent scholarships
22 for the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to
23 residents;

24

1 1. Qualified high school students of the Tulsa School District
2 who are direct lineal descendants as defined in subsection C of this
3 section;

4 2. Qualified high school students of the Tulsa School District;
5 and

6 3. Qualified students of any other public school district in
7 this state who are direct lineal descendants as defined in
8 subsection C of this section,
9 who are intending to pursue studies at an institution of higher
10 education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a
11 private institution of higher education in this state or who are
12 intending to pursue studies in a postsecondary career and technology
13 education program in this state.

14 B. To qualify for a scholarship, the family income of an
15 applicant shall ~~satisfy the following criteria:~~

16 ~~1. The family income of the applicant,~~ from taxable sources ~~is~~
17 ~~not more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00),~~ not exceed One
18 Hundred Twenty-eight Thousand Dollars (\$128,000.00) per year. The
19 income limitation prescribed by this subsection shall be adjusted
20 annually by the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price
21 Index, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics,
22 for the preceding year. There shall be no family income limit for
23 an applicant who is a direct lineal descendant as defined in
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1 subsection C of this section. The Free Application for Federal
2 Student Aid (FAFSA) form may be used to verify family income;

3 ~~2. The applicant attended a Tulsa public school where seventy-~~
4 ~~five percent (75%) or more of the students enrolled in the school~~
5 ~~qualify for the free and reduced lunch program; and~~

6 ~~3. The applicant resides in a census block area within the~~
7 ~~Tulsa School District where thirty percent (30%) or more of the~~
8 ~~residents are at or below the poverty level established by the~~
9 ~~United States Bureau of the Census.~~

10 C. ~~The Regents may consider as a factor, when determining the~~
11 ~~order of preference of applicants, whether State Regents' selection~~
12 ~~process shall give first priority status to an applicant who is a~~
13 ~~senior in high school and a direct lineal descendant of a person who~~
14 ~~resided in the Greenwood Area in the City of Tulsa between April 30,~~
15 ~~1921, and June 1, 1921, and was a victim of the 1921 Tulsa Race~~
16 ~~Massacre. If the Regents use Use of descent as a preference factor,~~
17 ~~it shall be applied to all applicants regardless of race. The~~
18 ~~applicants shall be required to present verifiable documentation of~~
19 ~~their lineage. ~~The Oklahoma Historical Society~~ An organization or~~
20 ~~individual engaged in genealogy and research of descendants and~~
21 ~~history of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and Greenwood Area shall~~
22 ~~verify the authenticity and accuracy of the documentation submitted~~
23 ~~by an applicant and shall ~~establish~~ confirm the boundaries of the~~
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1 Greenwood Area. Verifiable documentation shall include, but not be
2 limited to, the following:

3 1. Family records including family bibles, vital records,
4 correspondence, memoirs, journals, diaries, unrecorded deeds,
5 diplomas, certificates, or testimonials;

6 2. Public records including censuses, government records,
7 military records, pensions, land bounty records, passport
8 applications, passenger lists, original grants, naturalization or
9 immigration records, records of entry, or state, province, or local
10 records; or

11 3. Institutional records including church records, cemetery
12 records and inscriptions, education institutions, insurance records,
13 or societies and fraternal organizations.

14 D. The State Regents shall promulgate rules establishing the
15 application requirements for the program and the system for
16 evaluating applications based on the preference factors. The rules
17 shall include the eligibility criteria specified in Section 2624 of
18 this title and any other relevant criteria as determined by the
19 State Regents. The application form shall include a small outlined
20 box graphic, followed by the following language: "Mark the box if
21 you are a direct lineal descendant of a victim greatly impacted
22 socially and economically during the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre who
23 resided in the Greenwood Area of Tulsa, Oklahoma, between April 30,
24 1921, and June 1, 1921."

1 E. Applicants shall also meet the eligibility criteria
2 established in Section 2624 of this title.

3 ~~F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall also~~
4 ~~be authorized to annually award scholarships for the Tulsa~~
5 ~~Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to two students at~~
6 ~~each of the high schools in the Tulsa School District for the~~
7 ~~purpose of preserving awareness of the history and meaning of the~~
8 ~~civil unrest that occurred in Tulsa in 1921. The following~~
9 ~~provisions shall apply to the scholarship provided in this~~
10 ~~subsection:~~

11 ~~1. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this~~
12 ~~section, eligibility for the scholarships awarded pursuant to this~~
13 ~~subsection shall be:~~

14 ~~a. enrollment in the appropriate high school,~~

15 ~~b. family income of the applicant from taxable sources~~
16 ~~not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~
17 ~~per year,~~

18 ~~c. satisfaction of the criteria specified in Section 2624~~
19 ~~of this title, and~~

20 ~~d. any other relevant criteria determined by the Oklahoma~~
21 ~~State Regents for Higher Education;~~

22 ~~2. 1. The State Regents shall involve the administration of~~
23 ~~the Tulsa School District and a community advisory committee in the~~
24 ~~selection process. The community advisory committee shall be~~

1 comprised of seven (7) members appointed by the Chancellor of Higher
2 Education. The community advisory committee shall be comprised of:

3 a. the President of Langston University or his or her
4 designee,

5 b. the Superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools or his or
6 her designee,

7 c. two members of the Legislature representing the
8 Greenwood Area in the City of Tulsa or their
9 designees,

10 d. two descendants of socially and economically adversely
11 impacted persons who resided in the Greenwood Area in
12 the City of Tulsa between April 30, 1921, and June 1,
13 1921, and

14 e. a citizen with ties to the historic Greenwood
15 community who may be engaged in faith-based,
16 education, or social, business, or advocacy work.

17 The President of Langston University, or his or her designee,
18 shall be responsible for coordinating with the community advisory
19 committee and shall submit to the Chancellor of Higher Education a
20 list of proposed committee members for review and approval. The
21 community advisory committee shall review scholarship applications
22 and make recommendations for scholarship recipients and scholarship
23 award amounts. The State Regents shall select scholarship

1 recipients from the list of recommendations provided pursuant to
2 this paragraph;

3 ~~3. The award shall be limited to a one-year full-time~~
4 ~~equivalent period. Following successful completion of such award~~

5 2. To retain eligibility for scholarships awarded pursuant to
6 this subsection, recipients who shall meet the criteria provided in
7 subsection B of this section shall be eligible to apply and be
8 considered for continued participation in the full Tulsa

9 ~~Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program.~~ Any student
10 ~~subsequently~~ awarded such scholarship shall have the duration of the
11 scholarship provided pursuant to this subsection deducted from the
12 limits set in subsection D of Section 2625 of this title;

13 ~~4.~~ 3. The award may only be funded with state funds
14 appropriated to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship
15 Trust Fund and income therefrom, and shall be made subject to the
16 availability of such funds; and

17 ~~5.~~ 4. The awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be
18 included within the maximum number of scholarships specified in
19 subsection A of this section.

20 G. No more than five percent (5%) of scholarships awarded
21 pursuant to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Act
22 shall be provided to nontraditional students. For the purposes of
23 this section, a nontraditional student is an applicant who is
24 twenty-six (26) years of age or older. In awarding scholarships to

1 nontraditional students, priority shall be given to applicants who
2 are direct lineal descendants as defined in subsection C of this
3 section.

4 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2625, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 2625. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an
7 amount of not more than the equivalent of the average amount of
8 resident tuition for which an eligible Tulsa Reconciliation
9 Education and Scholarship Program participant enrolled in an
10 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, or
11 enrolled in a postsecondary career and technology education program,
12 whichever is applicable, is obligated to pay shall be awarded by
13 allocation from the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship
14 Trust Fund.

15 B. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible
16 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program participant
17 enrolled at a private institution of higher education, the Oklahoma
18 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Tulsa
19 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund an amount of not
20 more than the equivalent of the average amount of resident tuition
21 for which the participant would be eligible if the participant were
22 enrolled in a program at an institution of The Oklahoma State System
23 of Higher Education.

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1 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount of not more
2 than the equivalent of the average amount of tuition for which an
3 eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program
4 participant enrolled in a postsecondary career and technology
5 education program is obligated to pay shall be awarded by allocation
6 from the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund.
7 The allocation shall not exceed the amount a participant would have
8 received for enrollment at a two-year institution within The
9 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

10 D. Benefits awarded under the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
11 and Scholarship Program shall not be allowed for courses or other
12 postsecondary units taken in excess of the requirements for
13 completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more than five (5)
14 years after the student's first semester of participation in the
15 program. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award
16 the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program benefits
17 for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5) years
18 after the student's first semester of participation in the program
19 only in hardship circumstances. No Tulsa Reconciliation Education
20 and Scholarship Program participant may receive benefits beyond a
21 cumulative time period of five (5) years. The Oklahoma State
22 Regents for Higher Education may establish a maximum limit on the
23 number of courses or other postsecondary units to which Tulsa
24 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program benefits will

1 apply. An award to an eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and
2 Scholarship Program participant who is enrolled in a postsecondary
3 career and technology education program may be used to pay for both
4 career and technology education and college work if both are
5 required by the program.

6 E. Benefits awarded under the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
7 and Scholarship Program shall be awarded to not more than ~~300~~ three
8 hundred eligible participants annually, subject to the amount of
9 funds available for the program and the number of eligible
10 participants. ~~Subject to the provisions of subsection F of this~~
11 ~~section, if~~ If funds are not sufficient to provide awards for the
12 maximum number of eligible participants each year, the Oklahoma
13 State Regents for Higher Education shall make awards on the basis of
14 need. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall take
15 into consideration other grants and scholarships received by an
16 eligible student when making awards. If an eligible student
17 receives other grants and scholarships, the benefits awarded under
18 the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program may cover
19 any additional educational costs not covered by the other grants and
20 scholarships including, but not limited to, fees, required textbooks
21 or materials, and room and board. If the family of an eligible
22 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program participant
23 may qualify for the federal Hope Scholarship or Lifetime Learning
24 tax credit as provided for in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, P.L.

1 No. 105-34, the participant may elect to use the award allowed by
2 this section to pay for fees, required textbooks or materials and,
3 if any funds remain, to pay for room and board instead of resident
4 tuition.

5 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the
6 time an award is made on behalf of a Tulsa Reconciliation Education
7 and Scholarship Program participant, set aside in the Tulsa
8 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund funds for the
9 full commitment made to such Tulsa Reconciliation Education and
10 Scholarship Program participant. For all academic years,
11 participants who have previously received awards under the
12 provisions of the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Act
13 and who have continued at all times to fulfill the requirements for
14 eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to this program
15 shall be given ~~an absolute~~ priority for continued financial support
16 by the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program
17 superior to any ~~residents~~ students who are applying for such
18 benefits for the first time; provided, however, that scholarship
19 applicants who are direct lineal descendants as defined in
20 subsection C of Section 2623 of this title shall always be given
21 first priority status.

22 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
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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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