

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 23, 2021

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
4 BILL NO. 1821

By: McBride and Hasenbeck of  
the House

5 and

6 Pemberton and Stephens of  
7 the Senate

8  
9  
10 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
11 2011, Sections 626.4, 626.7 and 626.8, which relate  
12 to the Oklahoma Higher Education Tuition Aid Act;  
13 modifying process for awarding state tuition aid  
14 grants; permitting annual award of grants; removing  
15 prohibition to increase the annual maximum award  
16 amount; altering administration procedures for the  
17 grants; including factors to use in determining  
18 participation priorities; and providing an effective  
19 date.

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

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 626.4, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 626.4. State tuition aid grants shall be awarded ~~to all~~  
24 ~~eligible applicants~~ without any limitation on the number to be  
awarded in any year other than the amount of appropriations  
available therefor. The institution involved may appropriately

1 schedule work to permit recipients to earn the amount of said  
2 tuition grants.

3 Definitions of full-time and part-time undergraduate and  
4 graduate students shall be established by the Oklahoma State Regents  
5 for Higher Education.

6 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 626.7, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 626.7. A college tuition aid grant ~~shall~~ may be awarded  
9 annually to each eligible, qualified full-time or part-time  
10 undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a curriculum leading  
11 to a degree or certificate in an institution of collegiate grade or  
12 postsecondary institution providing a program of training to prepare  
13 students for employment in a recognized occupation in Oklahoma  
14 approved or accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
15 Education or appropriate postsecondary agency in accordance with the  
16 following:

17 1. Eligibility. Each full-time or part-time resident student  
18 will be eligible to receive a grant in an amount as provided in  
19 paragraph 2 of this section. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
20 Education shall determine by rules and regulations the maximum  
21 number of semesters a student may be eligible for grants. No  
22 student shall be eligible for grants unless the student maintains  
23 such minimum standards of academic performance as are required by  
24 the institution in which the student is enrolled.

1 In the event a student for any reason ceases to continue to be  
2 enrolled during the course of an academic year, the student shall  
3 cease to be eligible for tuition aid.

4 2. Amount of grant. The amount of tuition aid grant to any  
5 student under this act for any semester shall represent a percentage  
6 not greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the tuition and  
7 enrollment fees normally charged to residents of the State of  
8 Oklahoma by the institution of attendance. The Oklahoma State  
9 Regents for Higher Education shall determine by rules the annual  
10 maximum award amount based on an annual assessment of funds  
11 availability. ~~The State Regents shall not increase the annual  
12 maximum award amount unless funding is sufficient to serve at least  
13 the same number of students as the previous academic year.~~

14 ~~For the 2000-2001 academic year and each academic year  
15 thereafter, the percentage of aid shall be based on a need analysis  
16 system that is consistent with federal student financial aid  
17 regulations. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
18 set an annual award payment schedule based upon a maximum grant of  
19 seventy five percent (75%) of tuition and fees with grants based on  
20 lower percentages of tuition and fees being awarded to students who  
21 demonstrate lower financial need.~~

22 ~~Any student who receives an award for the 1999-2000 academic  
23 year shall not be denied additional awards because of inability to  
24 meet the financial standards established in this act as long as~~

1 ~~other eligibility criteria continue to be met and as long as the~~  
2 ~~award status of the student is renewed on an annual basis. The~~  
3 ~~Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to~~  
4 ~~establish procedures to determine the financial need of the student~~  
5 ~~under the standards used during the 1999-2000 academic year until~~  
6 ~~the initial degree requirements are met by the student.~~

7 Financial assistance received under this act will be considered  
8 as part of a student's financial aid package.

9 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 626.8, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Section 626.8. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
12 may adopt rules and regulations, prescribe and provide appropriate  
13 forms for application and employ such persons, contract for such  
14 services and make such additional expenditures as may be necessary  
15 or appropriate for effectuating the provisions of this act.

16 The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are hereby  
17 authorized to determine priorities for participation in this tuition  
18 aid program ~~by~~ based upon factors including, but not limited to,  
19 full-time, or part-time enrollment status, undergraduate ~~and~~ or  
20 graduate students enrollment status, unmet financial need,  
21 continuous enrollment, nearness to completion of a degree or  
22 certificate, state employment needs, eligibility for other state and  
23 institutional student financial aid and based on available state  
24 funding.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
March 23, 2021 - DO PASS

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