

1 ENGROSSED SENATE AMENDMENT  
TO  
2 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 2823

By: Denney of the House

and

Halligan of the Senate

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 2602, 2603, as last amended by Section 24, Chapter 11, O.S.L. 2012 and 2604 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 2603), which relate to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; clarifying statutory language; changing type of career technology program a student may enroll in and be eligible for an award under the program; deleting reference to certain courses; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

AUTHOR: Add the following Senate Coauthor: Brooks

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Page 1, strike the title, enacting clause and entire bill and insert

"[ higher education - Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program - career technology program - ~~effective date~~  
-  
emergency ]

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2602, is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 2602. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Higher  
2 Learning Access Program. The program shall also be known as  
3 "Oklahoma's Promise". The purpose of the program is to provide an  
4 award to students who meet the criteria set forth in the Oklahoma  
5 Higher Learning Access Act, ~~Section 2601 et seq. of this title, and~~  
6 who are pursuing studies in this state leading to an associate or  
7 baccalaureate degree or who are pursuing studies in a postsecondary  
8 ~~vocational-technical~~ career technology program ~~or course that would~~  
9 meet the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial  
10 aid and is offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement  
11 between by a technology center school ~~and an institution of The~~  
12 ~~Oklahoma State System of Higher Education~~ supervised by the State  
13 Board of Career and Technology Education, and who are in good  
14 academic standing in the institution ~~of higher education~~ or  
15 ~~technology center~~ school in which the student is enrolled, ~~to that~~  
16 will relieve ~~them~~ the student of the burden of paying nonguaranteed  
17 resident tuition at institutions of The Oklahoma State System of  
18 Higher Education, ~~to relieve them of the burden of paying tuition~~  
19 for enrollment in postsecondary programs of the technology center  
20 districts, or ~~to relieve them of some portion of the burden of~~  
21 paying some portion of such fees or tuition, pursuant to the  
22 provisions of this act, as may be required of enrollees at private  
23 institutions of higher education which are accredited pursuant to  
24 Section 4103 of this title. The further purpose of this program is

1 to establish and maintain a variety of support services whereby a  
2 broader range of the general student population of this state will  
3 be prepared for success in postsecondary endeavors.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2603, as  
5 last amended by Section 24, Chapter 11, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp.  
6 2015, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

7 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in  
8 subsection B of this section and elsewhere in this section, to be  
9 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
10 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an  
11 amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to  
12 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic  
13 unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

14 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school  
15 district located in this state that serves students who reside in  
16 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as  
17 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

18 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United  
19 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully  
20 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in  
21 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an  
22 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.  
23 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who  
24

1 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to  
2 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

3 3. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements  
4 executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;

5 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
6 from a high school accredited by the State Board of  
7 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
8 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
9 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
10 grades nine through twelve,

11 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
12 from a high school not accredited by the State Board  
13 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
14 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
15 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a

16 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or

17 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
18 three (3) years an educational program that was  
19 provided through a means other than a public or  
20 private school and have achieved a composite score of  
21 22 or higher on the ACT test;

22 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
23 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education  
24 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that

1 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements  
2 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-  
3 English language or technology courses that meet the college  
4 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine  
5 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point  
6 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a  
7 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or  
8 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all  
9 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this  
10 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the  
11 State Regents for remediation of high school curricular  
12 deficiencies;

13 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
14 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering  
15 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a  
16 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as  
17 determined by the private institution. No student participating in  
18 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into  
19 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

20 7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution  
21 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
22 a postsecondary ~~vocational-technical~~ career technology program that  
23 meets the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial  
24 aid and is offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement

1 ~~between by~~ a technology center school ~~and an institution of The~~  
2 ~~Oklahoma State System of Higher Education~~ supervised by the State  
3 Board of Career and Technology Education, or a private institution  
4 of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant  
5 to Section 4103 of this title; and

6 8. a. have established financial need according to the  
7 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this  
8 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

10 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve  
11 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of  
12 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered  
13 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing  
14 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as  
15 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have  
16 established financial need according to the provisions  
17 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this  
18 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
19 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or

20 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
21 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent  
22 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the  
23 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit  
24 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian

1           tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare  
2           Act, have established financial need according to the  
3           provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section  
4           2605 of this title and standards and provisions  
5           promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
6           Education.

7           B. 1. A student shall be eligible to participate in the  
8           Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award  
9           which includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition  
10          or other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the  
11          first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment if  
12          the student meets all of the following criteria:

13           a.    is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,  
14           in the line of duty in any branch of the United States  
15           Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a  
16           result of an injury sustained while in the line of  
17           duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
18           and the person who was killed or died filed an  
19           individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the  
20           tax year prior to the year during which the person was  
21           killed or died,

22           b.    is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school  
23           district located in this state that serves students  
24           who reside in both this state and an adjacent state

1           pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-  
2           117.1 of this title,

3           c.    enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State  
4           System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age  
5           of twenty-one (21),

6           d.    has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
7           Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-  
8           time-entering students for the appropriate type of  
9           institution, or, if attending a private institution,  
10          has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
11          private institution. No student participating in the  
12          Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be  
13          admitted into an institution of higher education by  
14          special admission standards,

15          e.    has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an  
16          institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State  
17          System of Higher Education, a postsecondary  
18          ~~vocational-technical~~ career technology program that  
19          meets the requirements to be eligible for federal  
20          student financial aid offered ~~pursuant to a duly~~  
21          ~~approved cooperative agreement between~~ by a technology  
22          center school ~~and an institution of The Oklahoma State~~  
23          ~~System of Higher Education~~ supervised by the State  
24          Board of Career and Technology Education, or a private



1 institution of higher learning located within this  
2 state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this  
3 title, and

4 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of  
5 Section 2605 of this title.

6 2. A student who is eligible to participate in the program  
7 pursuant to this subsection shall not be required to meet the  
8 eligibility requirements set forth in subsection A of this section.

9 C. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher  
10 learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

11 1. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a  
12 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken through the student's  
13 sophomore year and achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a  
14 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken during the student's  
15 junior year and thereafter. The provisions of this paragraph shall  
16 not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher  
17 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2012-2013 school  
18 year;

19 2. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic  
20 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for  
21 Higher Education;

22 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for  
23 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.  
24

1 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the  
2 2012-2013 school year;

3 4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of  
4 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
5 Education; and

6 5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or suspension  
7 of more than one semester from an institution of higher education.

8 A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall  
9 permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The provisions  
10 of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

11 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
12 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
13 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under the Oklahoma  
14 Higher Learning Access Act by a student.

15 E. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the  
16 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be  
17 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to the  
18 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act shall be the first students  
19 eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust  
20 Fund.

21 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are  
22 authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining  
23 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7) semesters  
24 of high school coursework by a student.

1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2604, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 2604. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an  
4 amount equivalent to the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an  
5 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is  
6 obligated at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
7 Education shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher  
8 Learning Access Trust Fund.

9 B. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible  
10 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled at a  
11 private institution of higher learning located within this state and  
12 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, the Oklahoma  
13 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Oklahoma  
14 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund an amount equivalent to the amount  
15 of resident tuition for which the student would be eligible if the  
16 student were enrolled in a comparable program at a comparable  
17 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.  
18 Comparability shall be determined by the State Regents.

19 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent  
20 to the tuition for any eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
21 Program student enrolled in a ~~public postsecondary vocational-~~  
22 ~~technical~~ career technology program ~~or course for the purpose set~~  
23 ~~forth in Section 2602 of this title~~ that meets the requirements to  
24 be eligible for federal student financial aid offered by a

1 technology center school supervised by the State Board of Career and  
2 Technology Education shall be awarded by allocation from the  
3 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. Provided, such  
4 allocation shall not exceed the amount a student would have received  
5 for comparable enrollment at a two-year institution within The  
6 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

7 D. 1. An award allowed by this section shall not be allowed  
8 for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the  
9 requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more  
10 than five (5) years after the student's first semester of  
11 postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
12 Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program  
13 benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5)  
14 years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment  
15 only in hardship circumstances; provided, however, no Oklahoma  
16 Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive benefits  
17 beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years.

18 2. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award  
19 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for a student's  
20 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment  
21 taken more than three (3) years after the student graduates from  
22 high school or completes an educational program equivalent to high  
23 school graduation as authorized in subsection A of Section 2603 of  
24 this title or after the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age

1 as authorized in subsection B of Section 2603 of this title if the  
2 student is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the  
3 Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the  
4 Oklahoma National Guard, and is ordered to active duty or active  
5 duty for special work or training and due to the duty commitment the  
6 student is unable to enroll prior to the end of the three-year  
7 period or before the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.  
8 The period shall be extended by the length of the term of duty.

9 3. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may  
10 establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other  
11 postsecondary units to which Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program  
12 benefits will apply.

13 4. An award for eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
14 Program students enrolled in cooperative programs pursuant to  
15 agreements between technology center schools and institutions of The  
16 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall be satisfied for  
17 both ~~vocational-technical~~ career technology and college work in  
18 which enrolled pursuant to such cooperative program.

19 E. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
20 Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any  
21 limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the amount  
22 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible  
23 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection F of this  
24 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all

1 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
2 shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma  
3 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration  
4 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when  
5 making awards.

6 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the  
7 time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Higher Learning  
8 Access Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
9 Access Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to such Higher  
10 Learning Access Program student. For all academic years, students  
11 who have previously received awards under the provisions of the  
12 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, Section 2601 et seq. of this  
13 title, and who have continued at all times to fulfill the  
14 requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to  
15 this program shall be given an absolute priority for continued  
16 financial support by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program  
17 superior to any students who are applying for such benefits for the  
18 first time.

19 ~~SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.~~

20 ~~SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation~~  
21 ~~of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby~~  
22 ~~declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and~~  
23 ~~be in full force from and after its passage and approval."~~

24



1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2823

By: Denney of the House

and

Halligan of the Senate

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5  
6  
7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
8 2011, Sections 2602, 2603, as last amended by Section  
9 24, Chapter 11, O.S.L. 2012 and 2604 (70 O.S. Supp.  
10 2015, Section 2603), which relate to the Oklahoma  
11 Higher Learning Access Program; clarifying statutory  
12 language; changing type of career technology program  
13 a student may enroll in and be eligible for an award  
14 under the program; deleting reference to certain  
15 courses; providing an effective date; and declaring  
16 an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2602, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 2602. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Higher  
21 Learning Access Program. The program shall also be known as  
22 "Oklahoma's Promise". The purpose of the program is to provide an  
23 award to students who meet the criteria set forth in the Oklahoma  
24 Higher Learning Access Act, ~~Section 2601 et seq. of this title, and~~  
who are pursuing studies in this state leading to an associate or  
baccalaureate degree or who are pursuing studies in a postsecondary  
~~vocational-technical~~ career technology program ~~or course~~ that meets



1 the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial aid  
2 and is offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement  
3 between by a technology center school and an institution of The  
4 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education supervised by the State  
5 Board of Career and Technology Education, and who are in good  
6 academic standing in the institution ~~of higher education~~ or  
7 ~~technology center~~ school in which the student is enrolled, ~~to that~~  
8 will relieve ~~them~~ the student of the burden of paying nonguaranteed  
9 resident tuition at institutions of The Oklahoma State System of  
10 Higher Education, ~~to relieve them of the burden of~~ paying tuition  
11 for enrollment in postsecondary programs of the technology center  
12 districts, or ~~to relieve them of some portion of the burden of~~  
13 paying some portion of such fees or tuition, pursuant to the  
14 provisions of this act, as may be required of enrollees at private  
15 institutions of higher education which are accredited pursuant to  
16 Section 4103 of this title. The further purpose of this program is  
17 to establish and maintain a variety of support services whereby a  
18 broader range of the general student population of this state will  
19 be prepared for success in postsecondary endeavors.

20 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2603, as  
21 last amended by Section 24, Chapter 11, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp.  
22 2015, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

23 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in  
24 subsection B of this section and elsewhere in this section, to be

1 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
2 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an  
3 amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to  
4 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic  
5 unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

6 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school  
7 district located in this state that serves students who reside in  
8 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as  
9 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

10 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United  
11 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully  
12 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in  
13 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an  
14 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.  
15 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who  
16 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to  
17 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

18 3. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements  
19 executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;

20 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
21 from a high school accredited by the State Board of  
22 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
23 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
24

1 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
2 grades nine through twelve,

3 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
4 from a high school not accredited by the State Board  
5 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
6 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
7 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a  
8 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or

9 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
10 three (3) years an educational program that was  
11 provided through a means other than a public or  
12 private school and have achieved a composite score of  
13 22 or higher on the ACT test;

14 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
15 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education  
16 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that  
17 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements  
18 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-  
19 English language or technology courses that meet the college  
20 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine  
21 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point  
22 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a  
23 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or  
24 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all

1 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this  
2 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the  
3 State Regents for remediation of high school curricular  
4 deficiencies;

5 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
6 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering  
7 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a  
8 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as  
9 determined by the private institution. No student participating in  
10 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into  
11 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

12 7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution  
13 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
14 a postsecondary ~~vocational-technical~~ career technology program that  
15 meets the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial  
16 aid and is offered pursuant to a duly approved cooperative agreement  
17 between by a technology center school and an institution of The  
18 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education supervised by the State  
19 Board of Career and Technology Education, or a private institution  
20 of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant  
21 to Section 4103 of this title; and

22 8. a. have established financial need according to the  
23 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this  
24

1 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

3 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve  
4 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of  
5 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered  
6 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing  
7 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as  
8 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have  
9 established financial need according to the provisions  
10 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this  
11 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
12 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or

13 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
14 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent  
15 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the  
16 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit  
17 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
18 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare  
19 Act, have established financial need according to the  
20 provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section  
21 2605 of this title and standards and provisions  
22 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
23 Education.  
24

1 B. 1. A student shall be eligible to participate in the  
2 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award  
3 which includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition  
4 or other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the  
5 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment if  
6 the student meets all of the following criteria:

7 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,  
8 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States  
9 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a  
10 result of an injury sustained while in the line of  
11 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
12 and the person who was killed or died filed an  
13 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the  
14 tax year prior to the year during which the person was  
15 killed or died,

16 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school  
17 district located in this state that serves students  
18 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state  
19 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-  
20 117.1 of this title,

21 c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State  
22 System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age  
23 of twenty-one (21),  
24

- 1           d.    has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
2                   Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-  
3                   time-entering students for the appropriate type of  
4                   institution, or, if attending a private institution,  
5                   has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
6                   private institution. No student participating in the  
7                   Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be  
8                   admitted into an institution of higher education by  
9                   special admission standards,
- 10          e.    has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an  
11                   institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State  
12                   System of Higher Education, a postsecondary  
13                   ~~vocational-technical~~ career technology program that  
14                   meets the requirements to be eligible for federal  
15                   student financial aid offered ~~pursuant to a duly~~  
16                   ~~approved cooperative agreement between~~ by a technology  
17                   center school ~~and an institution of The Oklahoma State~~  
18                   ~~System of Higher Education~~ supervised by the State  
19                   Board of Career and Technology Education, or a private  
20                   institution of higher learning located within this  
21                   state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this  
22                   title, and
- 23          f.    executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of  
24                   Section 2605 of this title.

1           2. A student who is eligible to participate in the program  
2 pursuant to this subsection shall not be required to meet the  
3 eligibility requirements set forth in subsection A of this section.

4           C. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher  
5 learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

6           1. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a  
7 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken through the student's  
8 sophomore year and achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a  
9 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken during the student's  
10 junior year and thereafter. The provisions of this paragraph shall  
11 not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher  
12 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2012-2013 school  
13 year;

14           2. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic  
15 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for  
16 Higher Education;

17           3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for  
18 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.  
19 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the  
20 2012-2013 school year;

21           4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of  
22 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
23 Education; and  
24



1           5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or suspension  
2 of more than one semester from an institution of higher education.  
3 A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall  
4 permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The provisions  
5 of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

6           D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
7 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
8 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under the Oklahoma  
9 Higher Learning Access Act by a student.

10          E. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the  
11 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be  
12 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to the  
13 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act shall be the first students  
14 eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust  
15 Fund.

16          F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are  
17 authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining  
18 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7) semesters  
19 of high school coursework by a student.

20          SECTION 8.           AMENDATORY           70 O.S. 2011, Section 2604, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22          Section 2604. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an  
23 amount equivalent to the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an  
24 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is

1 obligated at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
2 Education shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher  
3 Learning Access Trust Fund.

4 B. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible  
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled at a  
6 private institution of higher learning located within this state and  
7 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, the Oklahoma  
8 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Oklahoma  
9 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund an amount equivalent to the amount  
10 of resident tuition for which the student would be eligible if the  
11 student were enrolled in a comparable program at a comparable  
12 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.  
13 Comparability shall be determined by the State Regents.

14 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent  
15 to the tuition for any eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
16 Program student enrolled in a ~~public~~ postsecondary ~~vocational-~~  
17 ~~technical~~ career technology program ~~or course for the purpose set~~  
18 ~~forth in Section 2602 of this title~~ that meets the requirements to  
19 be eligible for federal student financial aid offered by a  
20 technology center school supervised by the State Board of Career and  
21 Technology Education shall be awarded by allocation from the  
22 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. Provided, such  
23 allocation shall not exceed the amount a student would have received  
24

1 for comparable enrollment at a two-year institution within The  
2 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

3 D. 1. An award allowed by this section shall not be allowed  
4 for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the  
5 requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more  
6 than five (5) years after the student's first semester of  
7 postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
8 Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program  
9 benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5)  
10 years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment  
11 only in hardship circumstances; provided, however, no Oklahoma  
12 Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive benefits  
13 beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years.

14 2. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award  
15 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for a student's  
16 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment  
17 taken more than three (3) years after the student graduates from  
18 high school or completes an educational program equivalent to high  
19 school graduation as authorized in subsection A of Section 2603 of  
20 this title or after the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age  
21 as authorized in subsection B of Section 2603 of this title if the  
22 student is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the  
23 Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the  
24 Oklahoma National Guard, and is ordered to active duty or active

1 duty for special work or training and due to the duty commitment the  
2 student is unable to enroll prior to the end of the three-year  
3 period or before the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.  
4 The period shall be extended by the length of the term of duty.

5 3. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may  
6 establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other  
7 postsecondary units to which Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program  
8 benefits will apply.

9 4. An award for eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
10 Program students enrolled in cooperative programs pursuant to  
11 agreements between technology center schools and institutions of The  
12 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall be satisfied for  
13 both ~~vocational-technical~~ career technology and college work in  
14 which enrolled pursuant to such cooperative program.

15 E. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
16 Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any  
17 limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the amount  
18 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible  
19 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection F of this  
20 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all  
21 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
22 shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma  
23 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration  
24

1 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when  
2 making awards.

3 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the  
4 time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Higher Learning  
5 Access Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
6 Access Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to such Higher  
7 Learning Access Program student. For all academic years, students  
8 who have previously received awards under the provisions of the  
9 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, Section 2601 et seq. of this  
10 title, and who have continued at all times to fulfill the  
11 requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to  
12 this program shall be given an absolute priority for continued  
13 financial support by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program  
14 superior to any students who are applying for such benefits for the  
15 first time.

16 SECTION 9. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

17 SECTION 10. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
18 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
19 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
20 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

21  
22  
23  
24

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of March, 2016.

2  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

6  
7  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the Senate