

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 427

By: Crain

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to tuition assistance; creating the
8 STEMM Tuition Assistance Program; authorizing the
9 Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, the
10 Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and
11 Mechanical Colleges and the Regional University
12 System of Oklahoma to establish certain tuition
13 assistance programs; providing criteria for program
14 participation; directing program participants to
15 execute certain contract; directing certain
16 compliance monitoring; directing submission of
17 certain report; directing the Oklahoma State Regents
18 for Higher Education to promulgate certain rules;
19 providing for codification; and providing an
20 effective date.

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

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4021 of Title 70, unless there
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the STEMM Tuition Assistance Program
to provide tuition assistance to qualified students studying fields
related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and
medicine.

1 B. Pursuant to the issuance of obligations authorized by
2 Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 of the 1st Session of the
3 55th Oklahoma Legislature and the certification and transfer of
4 funds pursuant to Section 1 of Enrolled Senate Bill No. 397 of the
5 1st Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature, the Regional
6 University System of Oklahoma, the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma
7 Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and the Board of Regents of
8 Oklahoma Colleges may establish a STEMM Tuition Assistance Program
9 for the institutions they oversee.

10 C. The STEMM Tuition Assistance Program, depending upon and
11 limited to available funding, shall provide tuition assistance to
12 qualified students who agree to remain in Oklahoma for five (5)
13 years following graduation from a postsecondary institution.

14 D. For the purposes of this section, a "qualified student"
15 shall mean an undergraduate student who is enrolled and in good
16 academic standing at an institution governed by the Board of Regents
17 of the University of Oklahoma, the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma
18 Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges or the Regional University
19 System of Oklahoma.

20 E. A qualified student participating in the STEMM Tuition
21 Assistance Program shall enter into a contract with the governing
22 board of the institution in which he or she is enrolled. The
23 contract shall, at a minimum, stipulate that the student agrees to
24 remain in Oklahoma for at least five (5) years following graduation

1 from the postsecondary institution. The governing board of the
2 institution may establish additional requirements. If the student
3 does not fulfill the contract obligation, the governing board of the
4 institution may collect from the qualified student the entire amount
5 of tuition assistance made under the STEMM Tuition Assistance
6 Program.

7 F. A qualified student who participates in the STEMM Tuition
8 Assistance Program shall not also accept an award from the Oklahoma
9 Higher Learning Access Program created by Section 2602 of Title 70
10 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 G. The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, the
12 Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical
13 Colleges and the Regional University System of Oklahoma shall
14 monitor compliance with any contract authorized by a STEMM Tuition
15 Assistance Program.

16 H. The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, the
17 Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical
18 Colleges and the Regional University System of Oklahoma shall
19 provide a report on the operation of any STEMM Tuition Assistance
20 Program established at the institutions they govern to the Governor,
21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro
22 Tempore of the Senate on or before December 31 of any year such a
23 program is in place.

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1 I. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
2 promulgate rules setting forth the guidelines of the STEMM Tuition
3 Assistance Program. If Board of Regents of the University of
4 Oklahoma, the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and
5 Mechanical Colleges or the Regional University System of Oklahoma
6 establish a STEMM Tuition Assistance Program at the universities
7 they govern, they shall establish policy guidelines setting forth
8 the eligibility criteria and contract requirements for the program.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective upon certification
10 of election returns favoring passage of the Constitutional Amendment
11 proposed in Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 of the 1st
12 Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature.

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