

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2555

By: McBride, Baker, Waldron,  
West (Tammy), Moore, and  
Roberts of the House

3  
4 and

Thompson (Roger) of the  
Senate

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7  
8 [ scholarships - Oklahoma Critical Industries  
9 Scholarship Program - four-year pilot program -  
10 eligibility criteria for students - critical  
11 industry programs - matching funds - annual report  
12 - codification - effective date -  
13 emergency ]

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2501 of Title 70, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. Beginning July 1, 2023, there is hereby created the Oklahoma  
21 Critical Industries Scholarship Program. The program shall be a  
22 four-year pilot program to encourage high school graduates to pursue  
23 degree-seeking or certificate-seeking post-secondary education  
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1 training in industries which are critical to the economic growth of  
2 the state.

3 B. The Oklahoma Critical Industries Scholarship Program shall  
4 be administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.  
5 The scholarship amounts and student eligibility for the program  
6 shall be established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
7 Education and may vary by individual higher education institution or  
8 technology center school. At a minimum, eligible students shall be:

- 9 1. Enrolled full-time at a state public higher education  
10 institution or state public technology center school;
- 11 2. Pursuing a degree or certification in an accredited critical  
12 industry program; and
- 13 3. Shall not be pursuing a graduate degree.

14 C. Eligible critical industry programs offered by state public  
15 higher education institutions and state public technology center  
16 schools shall be identified by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
17 Education, in coordination with the State Board of Career and  
18 Technology Education, and shall include computer science,  
19 engineering, and cybersecurity programs.

20 D. The program shall match state funds up to Fifteen Million  
21 Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) on a pro rata basis with funds from state  
22 public higher education institutions, state public technology center  
23 schools, and private funding sources to provide scholarships for  
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1 eligible students. State matching funds shall be capped for each  
2 higher education institution and technology center school.

3 E. If sufficient funds are not available to award scholarships  
4 to eligible participants during any fiscal year, the Chancellor may  
5 make reductions in the payments made to participants.

6 F. At the time a scholarship is awarded on behalf of the  
7 Oklahoma Critical Industries Scholarship Program, the Oklahoma State  
8 Regents for Higher Education may set aside funds for the full  
9 commitment made to a participating student.

10 G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may utilize  
11 Oklahoma Critical Industries Scholarship Program designated funds  
12 for administration of the program.

13 H. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in  
14 cooperation with the State Board of Career and Technology Education  
15 shall prepare and submit an annual report on the Oklahoma Critical  
16 Industries Scholarship Program on or before July 1 of each year to  
17 the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the President  
18 Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and the Governor.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

20 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
21 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
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