

1 four-year pilot program to encourage high school graduates to pursue
2 degree-seeking or certificate-seeking post-secondary education
3 training in industries which are critical to the economic growth of
4 the state.

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

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

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

22 D. The program shall match state funds up to Fifteen Million
23 Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) on a pro rata basis with funds from state
24 public higher education institutions, state public technology center

1 schools, and private funding sources to provide scholarships for
2 eligible students. State matching funds shall be capped for each
3 higher education institution and technology center school.

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

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 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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4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
5 03/02/2023 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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