

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

4 HOUSE BILL 3591

 By: McCall

7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.
9 2011, Section 2604, as amended by Section 3, Chapter
10 289, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 2604),
11 which relates to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
 Program; requiring other grants and scholarships to
 be exhausted prior to award being made; and providing
 an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2604, as
16 amended by Section 3, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017,
17 Section 2604), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 2604. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an
19 amount equivalent to the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an
20 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is
21 obligated at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
22 Education shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher
23 Learning Access Trust Fund.

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

11 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent
12 to the tuition for any eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
13 Program student enrolled in a public postsecondary vocational-
14 technical program or course for the purpose set forth in Section
15 2602 of this title shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma
16 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. Provided, such allocation shall
17 not exceed the amount a student would have received for comparable
18 enrollment at a two-year institution within The Oklahoma State
19 System of Higher Education.

20 D. 1. An award allowed by this section shall not be allowed
21 for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the
22 requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more
23 than five (5) years after the student's first semester of
24 postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher

1 Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
2 benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5)
3 years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment
4 only in hardship circumstances; provided, however, no Oklahoma
5 Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive benefits
6 beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years.

7 2. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award
8 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for a student's
9 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment
10 taken more than three (3) years after the student graduates from
11 high school or completes an educational program equivalent to high
12 school graduation as authorized in subsection A of Section 2603 of
13 this title or after the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age
14 as authorized in subsection B of Section 2603 of this title if the
15 student is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the
16 Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the
17 Oklahoma National Guard, and is ordered to active duty or active
18 duty for special work or training and due to the duty commitment the
19 student is unable to enroll prior to the end of the three-year
20 period or before the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.
21 The period shall be extended by the length of the term of duty.

22 3. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
23 establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other
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1 postsecondary units to which Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
2 benefits will apply.

3 E. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
4 Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any
5 limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the amount
6 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
7 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection F of this
8 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all
9 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
10 shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma
11 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration
12 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when
13 making awards and awards shall be made only after all other grants
14 and scholarships received by an eligible applicant are exhausted.

15 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the
16 time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Higher Learning
17 Access Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Higher Learning
18 Access Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to such Higher
19 Learning Access Program student. For all academic years, students
20 who have previously received awards under the provisions of the
21 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, Section 2601 et seq. of this
22 title, and who have continued at all times to fulfill the
23 requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to
24 this program shall be given an absolute priority for continued

1 financial support by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
2 superior to any students who are applying for such benefits for the
3 first time.

4 G. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, an award allowed
5 by this section shall not include an amount for payment of remedial
6 noncredit-earning courses taken by an eligible Oklahoma Higher
7 Learning Access Program student.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2018.

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10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
11 02/27/2018 - DO PASS.
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