

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1626

By: Seifried

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3218.8, which relates to tuition and fee rates; removing language directing certain combined average at comprehensive universities to remain less than certain combined average at institutions that are members of certain conference; directing certain combined average to not exceed certain combined average at institutions in certain states; updating statutory reference; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3218.8, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3218.8. A. Subject to the provisions of subsection D of this section, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to establish undergraduate resident tuition, nonresident tuition, and mandatory fees, which students shall pay as a condition of enrollment, except as otherwise provided by law. The process for establishing tuition and mandatory fees shall incorporate the provisions of Section 3218.14 of this title.

1 ~~1. At the comprehensive universities the combined average of~~
2 ~~the resident tuition and mandatory fees established for any school~~
3 ~~year for the nonguaranteed rate, as determined by the State Regents,~~
4 ~~shall remain less than the combined average of the resident tuition~~
5 ~~and fees at the state-supported institutions of higher education~~
6 ~~that are members of the Big Twelve Conference on the effective date~~
7 ~~of this act. The combined average of the nonresident tuition and~~
8 ~~mandatory fees, as determined by the State Regents, shall remain~~
9 ~~less than one hundred five percent (105%) of the combined average of~~
10 ~~the nonresident tuition and fees at the state-supported institutions~~
11 ~~of higher education that are members of the Big Twelve Conference on~~
12 ~~the effective date of this act.~~

13 2. At the comprehensive universities, regional universities,
14 and two-year colleges the combined average of the resident tuition
15 and mandatory fees established for any school year for the
16 nonguaranteed rate, as determined by the State Regents, shall remain
17 less than the combined average of the resident tuition and mandatory
18 fees at like-type state-supported comprehensive, regional, or two-
19 year institutions of higher education ~~in states~~ as determined and
20 approved by the State Regents that include, but are not limited to,
21 ~~those adjacent~~ states contiguous to Oklahoma. The combined average
22 of the nonresident tuition and mandatory fees, as determined by the
23 State Regents, shall remain less than one hundred five percent
24 (105%) of the combined average of the nonresident tuition and fees

1 at like-type state-supported comprehensive, regional, or two-year
2 institutions of higher education ~~in states~~ as determined and
3 approved by the State Regents that include, but are not limited to,
4 ~~those adjacent~~ states contiguous to Oklahoma.

5 B. In its deliberation on the establishment of resident tuition
6 rates for undergraduate and graduate education, the Oklahoma State
7 Regents for Higher Education shall balance the affordability of
8 public higher education with the provision of available, diverse,
9 and high-quality learning opportunities. In this endeavor the State
10 Regents shall ~~give consideration to~~ consider the level of state
11 appropriations, the state economy, the per capita income and cost of
12 living, the college-going and college-retention rates, and the
13 availability of financial aid in Oklahoma. For any increase in the
14 tuition rates, the State Regents shall demonstrate a reasonable
15 effort to effect a proportionate increase in the availability of
16 need-based student financial aid. Need-based financial aid shall
17 include, but shall not be limited to, awards for the Oklahoma Higher
18 Learning Access Program, Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grants, federal need-
19 based financial aid and tuition waivers, and private donations. In
20 addition, when determining the guaranteed tuition rates as provided
21 for in subsection D of this section, the State Regents shall
22 consider the anticipated revenue needs during the four-year period
23 of the guarantee.

1 C. Students permitted to audit courses shall pay the same
2 resident tuition and nonresident tuition as required of students who
3 enroll for course credit.

4 D. 1. Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, each
5 comprehensive and regional institution within The Oklahoma State
6 System of Higher Education shall offer to resident students
7 enrolling for the first time as a full-time undergraduate a tuition
8 rate that will be guaranteed for a period of not less than four (4)
9 consecutive academic years as provided for in this subsection.

10 Students shall have the option to participate or not participate in
11 the guaranteed tuition rate program and shall indicate their
12 election at the time of enrollment. Each institution shall provide
13 students with the following information prior to enrollment:

- 14 a. the annual tuition rate charged and the percentage
15 increase for the previous four (4) academic years, and
- 16 b. the annual tuition and percentage increase that the
17 nonguaranteed tuition rate would have to increase to
18 equal or exceed the guaranteed tuition rate for the
19 succeeding four (4) academic years.

20 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, for a
21 student who elects to participate in the guaranteed tuition rate
22 program, who is a resident of the state, and who enrolls for the
23 first time as a full-time undergraduate student at an institution in
24 the state after the 2007-2008 academic year, the amount of

1 undergraduate resident tuition charged to the student for four (4)
2 consecutive academic years at a comprehensive and regional
3 institution shall not exceed the amount that the student was charged
4 at the time of first enrollment, nor shall it exceed one hundred
5 fifteen percent (115%) of the nonguaranteed undergraduate tuition
6 rate charged to resident students enrolling for the first time as
7 undergraduate students at the same institution for the same academic
8 year.

9 3. If the normal time of completion for an undergraduate
10 program is more than four (4) years, as determined by the
11 institution, the amount of resident tuition charged to students in
12 that program who have elected to participate in the guaranteed
13 tuition rate program shall not increase during the normal completion
14 period of the program.

15 4. If a student who has elected to participate in the
16 guaranteed tuition rate program is a member of the United States
17 Armed Forces including the Army and Air National Guard, the Army,
18 Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserves, or any
19 other component of the Armed Forces, and when ordered by the proper
20 authority to active or inactive duty or service is required to
21 withdraw from an institution for military or other national defense
22 emergencies, the amount of resident tuition the student is required
23 to pay upon reentering the institution shall not exceed the amount
24 the student was charged at the time of withdrawal.

1 5. If a student who has elected to participate in the
2 guaranteed tuition rate program transfers to another institution or
3 transfers from a constituent agency of an institution to another
4 constituent agency or the institution after initial enrollment, the
5 student shall be charged the amount of resident tuition charged to
6 other students enrolling for the first time at that institution or
7 constituent agency.

8 6. If a student who has elected to participate in the
9 guaranteed tuition rate program changes majors or transfers to
10 another campus of the same institution after initial enrollment, the
11 tuition charged to the student shall equal the amount the student
12 would have been charged had the student been admitted to the changed
13 major or enrolled at the new campus when the student first enrolled.
14 This paragraph shall not apply if a student transfers from a
15 constituent agency of an institution to another constituent agency
16 of the institution.

17 7. A student who elects to participate in the guaranteed
18 tuition rate program shall maintain full-time enrollment during the
19 guaranteed four-year period. For purposes of this subsection, full-
20 time enrollment shall be the number of credit hours as determined by
21 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to be full-time
22 enrollment for each institution.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.
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1 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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