

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 14, 2023

3 SENATE BILL NO. 322

By: Seifried of the Senate

4 and

5 McBride of the House

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7  
8 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
9 2021, Section 626.7, which relates to the Oklahoma  
10 Higher Education Tuition Aid Act; providing  
11 eligibility for certain programs; updating statutory  
12 language; providing an effective date; and declaring  
13 an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 626.7, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 626.7. A college tuition aid grant may be awarded  
18 annually to each eligible, qualified full-time or part-time  
19 undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a curriculum leading  
20 to a degree or certificate in an institution of collegiate grade or  
21 postsecondary institution providing a program of training to prepare  
22 students for employment in a recognized occupation in Oklahoma  
23 approved or accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
24 Education or appropriate postsecondary agency. Eligible programs of  
training shall include comprehensive transition and postsecondary

1 programs approved by the United States Department of Education.

2 College tuition aid grants shall be awarded in accordance with the  
3 following:

4 1. Eligibility. Each full-time or part-time resident student  
5 ~~will~~ shall be eligible to receive a grant in an amount as provided  
6 in paragraph 2 of this section. The Oklahoma State Regents for  
7 Higher Education shall determine by rules and regulations the  
8 maximum number of semesters a student may be eligible for grants.

9 No student shall be eligible for grants unless the student maintains  
10 ~~such~~ minimum standards of academic performance as are required by  
11 the institution in which the student is enrolled.

12 In the event a student for any reason ceases to continue to be  
13 enrolled during the course of an academic year, the student shall  
14 cease to be eligible for tuition aid.

15 2. Amount of grant. The amount of tuition aid grant to any  
16 student under this act for any semester shall represent a percentage  
17 not greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the tuition and  
18 enrollment fees normally charged to residents of ~~the State of~~  
19 ~~Oklahoma~~ this state by the institution of attendance. The Oklahoma  
20 State Regents for Higher Education shall determine by rules the  
21 annual maximum award amount based on an annual assessment of funds  
22 availability.

23 Financial assistance received under this act ~~will~~ shall be  
24 considered as part of a student's financial aid package.

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

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

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
7 February 14, 2023 - DO PASS  
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