

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 639

By: Pugh, Stephens, Bullard,  
Bergstrom and Jech of the  
Senate

and

Baker and Dollens of the  
House

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; amending Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 2606), which relates to return of awarded funds for certain reason; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to administer certain survey to certain students; directing the State Regents to submit certain report by certain date; providing contents of report; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 2606), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2606. A. If a student withdraws from a class in which he or she has received an award from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, the awarded funds shall be returned to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply to awarded funds when a student withdraws prior to

the end of the add/drop period for the session in which the student is enrolled.

B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall administer a survey to students who receive an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program award and who withdraw from an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a private institution of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title or a technology center school before completing a degree or certificate program. The survey shall gather information on the reasons for withdrawal, the barriers to completion of a degree or certificate program and the future plans of the students.

C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2607 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Beginning December 31, 2022, and each December 31 thereafter, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall submit to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives an annual report on the impact of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, also known as Oklahoma's Promise, created pursuant to Sections 2601 et seq. of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The report shall include:

A. 1. Year-to-year cohort retention and five-year graduation rates of all students enrolled in institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education compared to the year-to-year cohort retention and five-year graduation rates of students who receive Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program awards who are enrolled in institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. The data shall include the degree programs in which the students are enrolled.

2. Year-to-year cohort retention and five-year graduation rates of students who receive Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program awards who are enrolled in private institutions of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant Section 4103 of

Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The data shall include the degree programs in which the students are enrolled.

3. Certificate attainment rates of all students enrolled in technology center schools compared to the certificate attainment rates of students who receive Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program awards who are enrolled in technology center schools. The data shall include the career areas in which the students are enrolled.

B. The financial impact and enrollment impact of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program on two-year and four-year institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, private institutions of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant Section 4103 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and technology center schools.

C. Data on Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program participants who graduate from an institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a private institution of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant Section 4103 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or who attain a certificate from a technology center school, including:

1. The number of participants who are residents of the state one year after graduation or certificate attainment; and

2. The industry or career area in which the participant is employed.

D. Data from surveys completed pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 2606 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

Passed the Senate the 24th day of May, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of May, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_