

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT  
TO  
2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 654 By: Rosino of the Senate  
3 and  
4 Burns of the House  
5

6 An Act relating to postsecondary education; creating  
7 the Captain Steven L. Farley Goldstar Families Act;  
8 providing short title; providing certain tuition  
9 waivers for surviving spouses and children of certain  
10 military members killed after certain date; providing  
11 eligibility; providing retention eligibility;  
12 directing certain federal benefits to be exhausted  
13 prior to waiving of certain tuition; providing for  
14 promulgation of rules; providing for codification;  
15 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
16 emergency.

17 AUTHOR: Add the following House coauthor: Menz

18 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill  
19 and insert:

20 "[ postsecondary education - Captain Steven L. Farley  
21 Gold Star Families Act - tuition waivers for  
22 surviving spouses and children of military members  
23 - retention eligibility - federal benefits -  
24 eligibility for members in technology center school

1 certificate programs - requirements - Oklahoma  
2 National Guard Educational Certificate Program  
3 Assistance Revolving Fund - source of funds -  
4 reporting requirements - promulgation of rules -  
5 codification - effective date -

6 emergency ]

7  
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

9 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3234 of Title 70, unless there  
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Captain  
13 Steven L. Farley Gold Star Families Act".

14 B. The surviving spouse and children of a member of any branch  
15 of the United States Armed Forces who was killed in action or killed  
16 in the performance of his or her duty after September 11, 2001,  
17 shall be eligible for a waiver of:

18 1. Undergraduate resident tuition, mandatory fees, and academic  
19 service fees at institutions within The Oklahoma State System of  
20 Higher Education. A student shall be eligible for a tuition and  
21 fees waiver for up to five (5) years or completion of the  
22 requirements for a baccalaureate degree, whichever comes first; or

23 2. Resident tuition and mandatory fees for a postsecondary  
24 program at a technology center school operating under the State

1 Board of Career and Technology Education. Students shall be  
2 eligible for a tuition and fees waiver for up to five (5) years or  
3 completion of a certificate, whichever comes first.

4 C. To be eligible for a tuition and fees waiver, a student  
5 shall:

6 1. Be a resident of this state; and

7 2. Have secured admission to and enrolled in an institution  
8 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a  
9 postsecondary program at a technology center school operating under  
10 the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

11 D. To retain eligibility for a tuition and fees waiver, the  
12 student shall maintain good academic standing and satisfactory  
13 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for  
14 Higher Education or the State Board of Career and Technology  
15 Education.

16 E. A student seeking a tuition and fees waiver pursuant to this  
17 section who is eligible for federal education benefits shall exhaust  
18 all available federal benefits. Any amount of tuition and fees owed  
19 after federal benefits are exhausted shall be waived by the  
20 institution of higher education or the technology center school.

21 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
22 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
23 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

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1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2022  
2 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 3231), is amended to read as follows:

3 Section 3231. A. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
4 the "Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act".

5 B. As used in this act:

6 1. "Oklahoma educational institution" means an institution of  
7 higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
8 Education or a technology center school operating under the State  
9 Board of Career and Technology Education;

10 2. "Eligible Guard member" means a current member of the  
11 Oklahoma National Guard in good standing who has a high school  
12 diploma or who has completed General Educational Development (GED)  
13 requirements and who has secured admission to and enrolled in an  
14 Oklahoma educational institution;

15 3. "Certificate program" means a program offered by an Oklahoma  
16 educational institution that leads to the award of a postsecondary  
17 certificate;

18 4. "Graduate program" means a program offered by an Oklahoma  
19 educational institution that leads to the award of a master's  
20 degree;

21 ~~4.~~ 5. "Program" means the Oklahoma National Guard Educational  
22 Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this  
23 section; and

1       ~~5.~~ 6. "Undergraduate program" means a program offered by an  
2 Oklahoma educational institution that leads to the award of an  
3 associate's degree or a baccalaureate degree.

4       C. There is hereby created the Oklahoma National Guard  
5 Educational Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible  
6 Guard members who enroll in an Oklahoma educational institution.  
7 Subject to the availability of funds, the amount of assistance shall  
8 be equivalent to the amount of resident tuition, mandatory fees, and  
9 academic service fees for courses in which the eligible Guard member  
10 is enrolled, not to exceed a maximum of eighteen (18) credit hours  
11 each semester.

12       1. The amount of assistance provided to an eligible Guard  
13 member enrolled in an undergraduate program shall not exceed a  
14 maximum of one hundred twenty (120) credit hours in pursuit of an  
15 associate's degree and/or a baccalaureate degree.

16       2. Subject to the assistance for eligible Guard members  
17 enrolled in undergraduate programs being fully funded, assistance  
18 shall be provided to an eligible Guard member with a baccalaureate  
19 degree enrolled in a graduate program. The amount of assistance  
20 provided to an eligible Guard member enrolled in a graduate program  
21 shall not exceed a maximum of forty (40) credit hours in pursuit of  
22 a master's degree.

23       3. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be  
24 granted without any limitation other than the amount of funds

1 available for the Program and the number of eligible Guard members  
2 who apply.

3 4. Assistance allowed by this section shall not be allowed for  
4 courses taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a  
5 certificate program, an undergraduate program, or a graduate  
6 program, whichever is applicable for the eligible Guard member.

7 D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be  
8 allocated to the Oklahoma educational institution from the Oklahoma  
9 National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund created  
10 pursuant to Section ~~2~~ 3232 of this ~~act~~ title and the Oklahoma  
11 National Guard Educational Certificate Program Assistance Revolving  
12 Fund created pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

13 E. To be eligible to apply for the Program, an eligible Guard  
14 member shall:

15 1. Have at least one (1) year remaining on his or her  
16 enlistment contract at the beginning of any semester for which the  
17 member applies for assistance pursuant to this section;

18 2. Agree in writing to complete his or her current service  
19 obligation in the Oklahoma National Guard; and

20 3. Agree in writing to serve actively in good standing with the  
21 Oklahoma National Guard for not less than twenty-four (24) months  
22 after completion of the last semester for which the member receives  
23 assistance pursuant to this section.

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1 F. To retain eligibility for the Program, an eligible Guard  
2 member shall:

3 1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic  
4 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma educational  
5 institution in which the member is enrolled;

6 2. Maintain the requirements for retention and certificate or  
7 degree completion as established by the Oklahoma educational  
8 institution in which the member is enrolled;

9 3. Maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0  
10 scale; and

11 4. Maintain satisfactory participation in the Oklahoma National  
12 Guard.

13 G. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to the  
14 provisions of this section shall submit an application on a form  
15 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to  
16 the Educational Service Office of the Military Department prior to  
17 the semester for which assistance is sought. The eligible Guard  
18 member's Commander or his or her designee shall confirm a member's  
19 standing and eligibility to the Oklahoma educational institution in  
20 which the student is enrolled.

21 H. The eligible Guard member's Commander may deny an  
22 application submitted by an eligible Guard member for continued  
23 Program assistance if he or she fails to comply with the provisions  
24 of paragraph 1, 2, or 3 of subsection F of this section.

1 I. An eligible Guard member who has received Program assistance  
2 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply  
3 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section  
4 shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as follows:

5 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant  
6 to the provisions of this section;

7 2. Divide the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this  
8 subsection by twenty-four (24); and

9 3. Multiply the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this  
10 subsection by the number of months the member did not fulfill the  
11 requirements of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section.

12 Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma National Guard  
13 Educational Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2  
14 3232 of this act title and the Oklahoma National Guard Educational  
15 Certificate Program Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to  
16 Section 3 of this act.

17 J. An eligible Guard member who has received Program assistance  
18 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply  
19 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section  
20 due to hardship circumstances may request a waiver from repayment.  
21 A waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the Adjutant  
22 General.

23 K. By July 1 annually, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
24 Education and the State Board of Career and Technology Education



1 shall notify the Adjutant General of the amount of funding available  
2 in the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund  
3 created pursuant to Section ~~2~~ 3232 of this ~~act~~ title and the  
4 Oklahoma National Guard Educational Certificate Program Assistance  
5 Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

6 L. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
7 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
8 rules to implement the provisions of this act including deadlines  
9 for submission of applications required by subsection G of this  
10 section. The Adjutant General may promulgate regulations to  
11 implement the provisions of this act.

12 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3232.1 of Title 70, unless there  
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
16 for the State Board of Career and Technology Education to be  
17 designated the "Oklahoma National Guard Educational Certificate  
18 Program Assistance Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing  
19 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of  
20 all monies received by the State Board of Career and Technology  
21 Education from state appropriations. All monies accruing to the  
22 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and  
23 expended by the State Board of Career and Technology Education for  
24 the purpose of providing assistance to eligible Oklahoma National

1 Guard members pursuant to the provisions of Section 3231 of Title 70  
2 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Expenditures from the fund shall be made  
3 upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as  
4 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and  
5 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

6 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

11 Passed the House of Representatives the 27th day of April, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

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16 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 654

By: Rosino of the Senate

3 and

4 Burns of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to postsecondary education; creating  
7 the Captain Steven L. Farley Goldstar Families Act;  
8 providing short title; providing certain tuition  
9 waivers for surviving spouses and children of certain  
10 military members killed after certain date; providing  
11 eligibility; providing retention eligibility;  
12 directing certain federal benefits to be exhausted  
13 prior to waiving of certain tuition; providing for  
14 promulgation of rules; providing for codification;  
15 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
16 emergency.

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

18 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3234 of Title 70, unless there  
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Captain  
22 Steven L. Farley Goldstar Families Act".

23 B. The surviving spouse and children of a member of any branch  
24 of the United States Armed Forces who was killed in action or killed  
in the performance of his or her duty after September 11, 2001,  
shall be eligible for a waiver of:

1           1. Undergraduate resident tuition at institutions within The  
2 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. A student shall be  
3 eligible for a tuition waiver for up to five (5) years or completion  
4 of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree, whichever comes  
5 first; or

6           2. Resident tuition for a postsecondary program at a technology  
7 center school operating under the State Board of Career and  
8 Technology Education. Students shall be eligible for a tuition  
9 waiver for up to five (5) years or completion of a certificate,  
10 whichever comes first.

11           C. To be eligible for a tuition waiver, a student shall:

12           1. Be a resident of this state; and

13           2. Have secured admission to and enrolled in an institution  
14 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a  
15 postsecondary program at a technology center school operating under  
16 the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

17           D. To retain eligibility for a tuition waiver, the student  
18 shall maintain good academic standing and satisfactory progress  
19 according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
20 Education or the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

21           E. A student seeking a tuition waiver pursuant to this section  
22 who is eligible for federal education benefits shall exhaust all  
23 available federal benefits. Any amount of tuition owed after  
24

1 federal benefits are exhausted shall be waived by the institution of  
2 higher education or the technology center school.

3 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
4 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
5 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

6 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

7 SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
8 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

11 Passed the Senate the 8th day of March, 2023.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

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15 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
16 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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