

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 4154

By: Goodwin of the House

and

Young of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
12 and Scholarship Trust; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
13 Sections 2621 and 2623, which relate to
14 administration of the Trust; modifying provisions
15 related to award of scholarships; modifying
16 qualifying income limit; modifying provisions related
17 to number of scholarships; providing an effective
18 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2621, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 2621. There is hereby created the Tulsa Reconciliation
23 Education and Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to
24 provide a scholarship award to residents of the Tulsa School
District, which was greatly impacted both socially and economically
by the civil unrest that occurred in the City of Tulsa during 1921.

1 Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, or as soon thereafter as
2 practicable, and subject to the availability of funds, the program
3 shall each year make scholarships available to as many as feasible
4 up to three hundred scholarships to qualified residents of the Tulsa
5 School District, and to qualified residents of any other common
6 school district of the state who are direct lineal descendants as
7 defined in subsection C of this section and who meet the criteria
8 set forth in Sections 2623 and 2624 of this title, and who are
9 intending to pursue studies at an institution of higher education in
10 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a private
11 institution of higher education, or who are intending to pursue
12 studies in a postsecondary career technology education program. The
13 scholarship shall be an amount of not more than the equivalent of
14 the average amount of resident tuition for which an eligible Tulsa
15 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program participant
16 enrolled at an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher
17 Education or a postsecondary career technology education program,
18 whichever is applicable, is obligated to pay. The scholarship shall
19 be paid as provided for in Section 2625 of this title. The further
20 purpose of this program is to establish and maintain a variety of
21 educational support services whereby residents who qualify for the
22 program will be prepared for success in postsecondary endeavors.

23 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2623, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 2623. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may annually award a
3 maximum of three hundred full-time-equivalent scholarships for the
4 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to residents
5 of the Tulsa School District.

6 B. To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant shall satisfy the
7 following criteria:

8 1. The family income of the applicant from taxable sources is
9 not more than ~~Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~ One Hundred
10 Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) per year. The Free
11 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form may used to verify
12 family income;

13 2. The applicant attended a Tulsa public school where seventy-
14 five percent (75%) or more of the students enrolled in the school
15 qualify for the free and reduced lunch program; and

16 3. The applicant resides in a census block area within the
17 Tulsa School District where thirty percent (30%) or more of the
18 residents are at or below the poverty level established by the
19 United States Bureau of the Census.

20 C. The Regents ~~may~~ shall consider as a factor, when determining
21 the order of preference of applicants, whether an applicant is a
22 direct lineal descendant of a person who resided in the Greenwood
23 Area in the City of Tulsa between April 30, 1921, and June 1, 1921.
24 If the Regents use descent as a preference factor, it shall be

1 applied to all applicants regardless of race. The applicants shall
2 be required to present verifiable documentation of their lineage.
3 The Oklahoma Historical Society shall verify the authenticity and
4 accuracy of the documentation submitted by an applicant and shall
5 establish the boundaries of the Greenwood Area. Verifiable
6 documentation shall include, but not be limited to the following:

7 1. Family records including family bibles, vital records,
8 correspondence, memoirs, journals, diaries, unrecorded deeds,
9 diplomas, certificates, or testimonials;

10 2. Public records including censuses, government records,
11 military records, pensions, land bounty records, passport
12 applications, passenger lists, original grants, naturalization or
13 immigration records, records of entry, or state, province, or local
14 records; or

15 3. Institutional records including church records, cemetery
16 records and inscriptions, education institutions, insurance records,
17 or societies and fraternal organizations.

18 D. The Regents shall promulgate rules establishing the
19 application requirements for the program and the system for
20 evaluating applications based on the preference factors.

21 E. Applicants shall also meet the eligibility criteria
22 established in Section 2624 of this title.

23 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall also
24 be authorized to annually award scholarships for the Tulsa

1 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to two students at
2 each of the high schools in the Tulsa School District for the
3 purpose of preserving awareness of the history and meaning of the
4 civil unrest that occurred in Tulsa in 1921. The following
5 provisions shall apply to the scholarship provided in this
6 subsection:

7 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this
8 section, eligibility for the scholarships awarded pursuant to this
9 subsection shall be:

- 10 a. enrollment in the appropriate high school,
- 11 b. family income of the applicant from taxable sources
12 not to exceed ~~Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~
13 One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) per
14 year,
- 15 c. the awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be
16 as specified in subsection C of this section,
- 17 d. satisfaction of the criteria specified in Section 2624
18 of this title, and
- 19 ~~d.~~ e. any other relevant criteria determined by the Oklahoma
20 State Regents for Higher Education;

21 2. The State Regents shall involve the administration of the
22 Tulsa School District in the selection process;

23 3. The award shall be limited to a one-year full-time-
24 equivalent period. Following successful completion of such award,

1 recipients who meet the criteria provided in subsection B of this
2 section shall be eligible to apply and be considered for continued
3 participation in the full Tulsa Reconciliation Education and
4 Scholarship Program. Any student subsequently awarded such
5 scholarship shall have the duration of the scholarship provided
6 pursuant to this subsection deducted from the limits set in
7 subsection D of Section 2625 of this title;

8 4. The award may only be funded with state funds appropriated
9 to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund and
10 income therefrom, and shall be made subject to the availability of
11 such funds; and

12 5. The awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be
13 included within the maximum number of scholarships specified in
14 subsection A of this section.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

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

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21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
22 03/03/2022 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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