

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 4154

By: Goodwin

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education
8 and Scholarship Trust; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
9 Sections 2621 and 2623, which relate to
10 administration of the Trust; modifying qualifying
11 income limit; modifying provisions related to number
12 of scholarships; making appropriation; stating
13 purpose of appropriation to the Oklahoma State
14 Regents for Higher Education; directing allocation of
15 amount to the Tulsa Reconciliation and Education
16 Scholarship Trust Fund; providing an effective date;
17 and declaring an emergency.

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

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

Section 2621. There is hereby created the Tulsa Reconciliation
Education and Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to
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.
Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, or as soon thereafter as

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

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

22 Section 2623. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
23 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may annually award a
24 maximum of three hundred full-time-equivalent scholarships for the

1 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to residents
2 of the Tulsa School District.

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

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

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

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

17 C. The Regents ~~may~~ shall consider as a factor, when determining
18 the order of preference of applicants, whether an applicant is a
19 direct lineal descendant of a person who resided in the Greenwood
20 Area in the City of Tulsa between April 30, 1921, and June 1, 1921.
21 If the Regents use descent as a preference factor, it shall be
22 applied to all applicants regardless of race. The applicants shall
23 be required to present verifiable documentation of their lineage.
24 The Oklahoma Historical Society shall verify the authenticity and

1 accuracy of the documentation submitted by an applicant and shall
2 establish the boundaries of the Greenwood Area. Verifiable
3 documentation shall include, but not be limited to the following:

4 1. Family records including family bibles, vital records,
5 correspondence, memoirs, journals, diaries, unrecorded deeds,
6 diplomas, certificates, or testimonials;

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

12 3. Institutional records including church records, cemetery
13 records and inscriptions, education institutions, insurance records,
14 or societies and fraternal organizations.

15 D. The Regents shall promulgate rules establishing the
16 application requirements for the program and the system for
17 evaluating applications based on the preference factors.

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

20 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall also
21 be authorized to annually award scholarships for the Tulsa
22 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to two students at
23 each of the high schools in the Tulsa School District for the
24 purpose of preserving awareness of the history and meaning of the

1 civil unrest that occurred in Tulsa in 1921. The following
2 provisions shall apply to the scholarship provided in this
3 subsection:

4 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this
5 section, eligibility for the scholarships awarded pursuant to this
6 subsection shall be:

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

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

20 3. The award shall be limited to a one-year full-time-
21 equivalent period. Following successful completion of such award,
22 recipients who meet the criteria provided in subsection B of this
23 section shall be eligible to apply and be considered for continued
24 participation in the full Tulsa Reconciliation Education and

1 Scholarship Program. Any student subsequently awarded such
2 scholarship shall have the duration of the scholarship provided
3 pursuant to this subsection deducted from the limits set in
4 subsection D of Section 2625 of this title;

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

9 5. The awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be
10 included within the maximum number of scholarships specified in
11 subsection A of this section.

12 SECTION 3. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma State
13 Regents for Higher Education from any monies not otherwise
14 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for
15 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the sum of One Million Five
16 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to be used for allocation
17 to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust for the
18 funding of scholarships according to requirements of law.

19 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

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

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