

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 6, 2024

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1624

By: Seifried

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

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

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

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

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

3 1. Eligibility. Each full-time or part-time resident student
4 ~~will~~ shall be eligible to receive a grant in an amount as provided
5 in paragraph 2 of this section. The Oklahoma State Regents for
6 Higher Education shall determine by rules and regulations the
7 maximum number of semesters a student may be eligible for grants.
8 No student shall be eligible for grants unless the student maintains
9 ~~such~~ minimum standards of academic performance as are required by
10 the institution in which the student is enrolled.

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

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

22 Financial assistance received under ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Higher
23 Education Tuition Aid Act ~~will~~ shall be considered as part of a
24 student's financial aid package.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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 6, 2024 - DO PASS
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