

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1339
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Author:	Sen. Seifried
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Bill Analysis

SB 1339 creates the Oklahoma Opportunity Scholarship Act and the Oklahoma Opportunity Scholarship Program to provide an award to eligible students with intellectual disabilities who are pursuing studies at a CTP program designed for such students. It provides initial and retention eligibility criteria. The measure states that, subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent to the nonguaranteed resident tuition at an institution of higher education or the tuition at a technology center school will be allocated from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. It states that if funds are insufficient to provide awards for all eligible students, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall make awards on the basis of need. It prohibits an award for courses or postsecondary units taken more than 5 years after the eligible student's first semester, with an exception for hardship circumstances. The measure establishes financial qualifications for the program, stating that a student shall not be found to be in financial need of his or her parents or legal guardians have a federal adjusted gross income of \$100,000.00 per year. It allows financial qualifications to be based on the income of the student, not the parents or legal guardians, if he or she is independent for federal financial aid purposes. It provides eligibility for students who were adopted between birth and age 12 and between ages 13-17. The bill also modifies language regarding the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund to allow it to be used for the Oklahoma Opportunity Scholarship Program.

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