An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1830

By: Brooks and Jolley of the Senate

and

Banz, Bennett, Lockhart, Cannaday, Pittman and Ritze of the House

An Act relating to higher education; creating the Oklahoma Student Veteran Leave of Absence Act of 2014; directing institutions of higher education to grant a leave of absence to a student who is called to active duty; providing certain options for students granted a leave of absence; providing for a maximum leave of absence; providing for a cause of action; providing for noncodification; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Create the Oklahoma Student Veteran Leave of Absence Act of 2014

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Student Veteran Leave of Absence Act of 2014".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3248 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. An institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall grant a leave of absence to a student who is a member of the active uniformed military services of the United States and is called to active duty. The student shall be eligible to:

1. Withdraw from and receive a refund for any or all classes for the period of active duty service without penalty to admission status or grade point average and without loss of institutional financial aid; or

2. Receive an incomplete grade for any or all classes for the period of active duty status; provided, however, that the student has completed a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of all class work prior to being called to active duty and the student completes all classes upon return from active duty. The student's admission status and grade point average shall not be penalized, and the student shall experience no loss of institutional financial aid.

B. The leave of absence granted pursuant to subsection A of this section shall not exceed a cumulative five (5) years.

C. If an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education fails to comply with the provisions of this act, the student may bring an action in district court for actual and compensatory damages for noncompliance and may be granted such relief as is just and proper under the circumstances.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

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

Passed the Senate the 12th day of March, 2014.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 1st day of April, 2014.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 2nd

day of April, 2014, at 4:44 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 7th

day of April, 2014, at 4:10 o'clock P M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 7th

day of April, 2014, at 4:35 o'clock P M.

By: Chris Benge