

**TITLE 610. STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
SUBCHAPTER 39. OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT

A. Brief description of the purpose of the proposed rule.

The proposed rule changes focus on the inclusion of flight costs and fees. Initially, flight costs and fees for aviation degree programs were excluded from award coverage to maximize student support and align with the intent of SB 1418, as well as with the Oklahoma National Guard's regulations. However, the Oklahoma National Guard now wishes to transition away from this approach and allow funding for flight costs and fees for aviation programs. It is essential that our rules align with this new approach. The proposed rules will allow academic services fees that include flights costs and fees for aviation students.

B. Description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule, and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities.

The proposed rule changes will affect the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma National Guard, and eligible members of the Oklahoma National Guard. The rule change will increase expenditures from the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund. No information on cost impacts has been received from any outside private or public entities.

C. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule.

The proposed rules will benefit the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma National Guard, and eligible members of the Oklahoma National Guard.

D. Description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon affected classes of persons or political subdivisions, including a listing of all fee changes and, whenever possible, a separate justification for each fee change.

The proposed rule changes should have positive economic impacts on the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma National Guard, and the members of the Oklahoma National Guard. Newly eligible students should benefit through the receipt of scholarships for flight fees and other educational benefits. The rule change will increase expenditures from the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund. There are no fee changes involved.

E. Probable costs and benefits to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, the source of revenue to be used for implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, and any anticipated effect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency.

The Oklahoma National Guard should see benefits from the proposed rule through increased retention and recruitment of members. The Oklahoma Legislature appropriates funds to the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund to cover the costs of the educational benefits to implement this program. The rule change will increase expenditures from the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund.

F. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule.

The proposed rules are not expected to have an economic impact on any political subdivisions. Cooperation in implementing the rule will be necessary by contact persons at the Oklahoma National Guard.

G. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an adverse economic effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

After consideration with reference to Section 303(A)(4) and 303(B)(6) of Title 75, it is believed that the proposed rules will have no adverse impact upon Small Business.

H. Explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs and a determination of whether there are less costly or non-regulatory methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education continue to work with the Oklahoma National Guard to minimize the administrative burden for awarding the educational benefits.

I. Determination of the effect of the proposed rule on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk.

The proposed rules will have no effect on the public health, safety, and environment.

J. Determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the proposed rule is not implemented.

No effect on the public health, safety, or the environment will result if the proposed rules are not implemented.

K. Date the rule impact statement was prepared and if modified, the date modified.

November 7, 2024.