

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2532

By: Deutschendorf, Bonny and
Sellers of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma EPSCoR Advisory Committee; stating the purpose of the Committee; providing membership of the Committee; providing for travel reimbursement; stating powers of the Committee; stating duties and responsibilities of the Committee; requiring the Committee to submit an annual report; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3230.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Advisory Committee to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The Committee shall be advisory in nature and shall provide recommendations on EPSCoR programs to the Regents, which is the funding agency for the state share of matching requirements for EPSCoR initiatives.

B. The purpose of the Committee shall be, through a partnership of higher education institutions, independent research entities, industry, and state government, to enhance scientific and engineering research and development conducted at universities in the state and thereby to enhance the success of Oklahoma researchers in federal award competitions.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3230.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall appoint members to the Oklahoma EPSCoR Advisory Committee that include:

1. Representatives of the state's universities and colleges;
2. Representatives of private research entities located in Oklahoma;

3. Representatives of private business;

4. Residents of Oklahoma whose contribution will enhance the goals of the Committee; and

5. A representative of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

B. The membership of the Committee shall also include:

1. One member of the Governor's staff to be appointed by the Governor;

2. One member of the State Senate to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

3. One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

C. The Regents shall ensure that the membership of the Committee complies with requirements and guidelines of the appropriate federal agencies.

D. Members of the Committee shall not receive compensation for serving on the Committee, but may receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Committee may be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes from the legislative body in which they serve;

2. State agency employees who are members of the Committee shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

3. All other Committee members may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3230.3 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma EPSCoR Advisory Committee shall recommend to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education EPSCoR research projects requiring state matching funds and other research and systemic initiatives as requested by the Regents.

B. The Committee shall have the duty and responsibility of:

1. Promoting cooperative research efforts among public and private universities in Oklahoma;

2. Promoting private sector involvement in university research and encouraging technology transfer;

3. Promoting human resource development in science and engineering within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;

4. Selecting specific research projects for submission in response to solicitations by EPSCoR Programs administered by federal agencies, which include but are not limited to the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Institutes of Health, (NIH), including the NIH IDeA Program for which a limited number of projects may be submitted by the State of Oklahoma;

5. Appointing the Oklahoma State EPSCoR Director; and

6. Undertaking other efforts as appropriate.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3230.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma EPSCoR Advisory Committee shall submit by July 1, 2001, and each July 1 thereafter, an annual report of its activities for the preceding year to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2000.

SECTION 6. 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 House of Representatives the 23rd day of May, 2000.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 23rd day of May, 2000.

President of the Senate