

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

HOUSE BILL HB2532

By: Deutschendorf

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma ESPCoR Advisory Committee; stating the purpose of the Committee; providing membership of the Committee; providing for terms of office for certain members; providing for vacancies; providing for nominating subcommittee to fill vacancies; providing for officers, meetings, quorum, and 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 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 EPSCoR Advisory Committee shall be composed of the following members, nine of whom shall be ex officio voting members, three of whom shall be appointed members, and not less than four of whom shall be selected members. The ex officio members shall be as follows:

1. The Chancellor of Higher Education;
2. The president of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology;
3. The chief research administrator, as designated by the university president, from each of the following institutions:
 - a. the University of Oklahoma - Norman Campus,
 - b. the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center,
 - c. Oklahoma State University,
 - d. the University of Tulsa, and
 - e. a regional university in the State System as designated by the Committee;
4. The chief research administrator, as designated by the president, from the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation; and
5. The EPSCoR Director as designated by the Committee.

The appointed members shall be as follows:

1. A member of the Governor's staff to be appointed by the Governor;
2. A member of the State Senate to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
3. A member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The following members shall be selected by a vote of the Committee:

1. No fewer than two members who represent the private sector, particularly the business community, with an interest in research and development; and

2. Two members whose contribution will enhance the goals of the EPSCoR Committee.

B. Members selected by a vote of the Committee shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. In the first year, the rotation of the terms shall be decided by random draw.

C. Vacancies in Committee membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

D. Upon completion of an elected member's term or when an elected membership vacancy occurs for other reasons, the cochairpersons of the Committee shall appoint a nominating subcommittee of not less than three Committee members to recommend individuals for membership. Members shall be appointed by a vote of the Committee, with a majority of the quorum required for approval.

E. The officers of the Committee shall be two cochairpersons, one of whom shall be the Chancellor for Higher Education and the other to be selected annually by a vote of the Committee. The cochairpersons shall appoint a nominating subcommittee of not less than three members of the Committee to recommend a cochairperson. A majority of the quorum of the Committee shall be required to approve a cochairperson.

F. Meetings of the Committee shall be held at the call of a cochairperson or whenever any five members so request. At a minimum the Committee shall meet quarterly.

G. Forty percent (40%) of the total membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No vacancy in the membership shall impair the right of a quorum. If a member cannot attend a meeting, that member may designate an alternate representative. The alternate shall have a voice, but no voting rights.

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

1. Legislative members of the Committee shall 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 shall 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 research projects requiring state matching funds and other research and systemic initiatives consistent with the goals of the Committee.

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; and

4. Appointing the EPSCoR Director; and

5. 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.

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