

ENGROSSED SENATE AMENDMENT
TO
ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2655

By: Winchester, Lindley,
Shelton, Auffet, Dorman,
McMullen, Pruett, Sherrer,
Shoemake and Walker of the
House

and

Lawler of the Senate

An Act relating to agriculture; creating the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Program Act; establishing the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Program; stating purpose of the Program; making the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry the lead agency for the Program; directing the State Department of Education to provide assistance and staffing; requiring the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to establish grant guidelines; creating the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Task Force; stating purpose of the Task Force; providing for membership, appointment of chair, and staffing; requiring a written report; providing for travel reimbursement; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Page 1, strike the title, enacting clause and entire bill and insert

"[agriculture - Oklahoma Farm to School Program Act -
codification -
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 5-12 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall operate an "Oklahoma Agritourism" program for the purpose of stimulating economic growth and viability in rural communities by

promoting and fostering agricultural tourism ventures within Oklahoma.

B. The Oklahoma Agritourism program of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall:

1. Foster conferences, institutes, and exhibits on agricultural tourism opportunities;

2. Publish reports, surveys, news bulletins, or other materials pertaining to its findings, recommendations, and work;

3. Utilize existing Department resources and related programs; and

4. Cooperate with other state agencies and other organizations as needed in development of the program.

C. The Department may apply for, accept, and use any gift, grant, or bequest from any source for the purpose of discharging its duties.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.1 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 2 through 7 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Farm to School Program Act".

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.2 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Legislature recognizes that:

1. Farm to School Programs link schools and Oklahoma farms in order to provide schools with fresh and minimally processed farm commodities for inclusion in school meals and snacks, to help children develop healthy eating habits, and to improve Oklahoma farmers' incomes and direct access to markets; and

2. The benefits of Farm to School Programs often include activities that provide students with hands-on learning opportunities, such as farm visits, cooking demonstrations, and

school gardening and composting programs, and integrate nutrition and agriculture education into school curricula.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature that school districts encourage the implementation of the Oklahoma Farm to School Program, which will emphasize the purchase of locally and regionally produced foods in order to improve child nutrition and strengthen local and regional farm economies.

C. A successful statewide Oklahoma Farm to School Program will require the resources, expertise, and collaboration of a variety of state agencies, including the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, the Department of Human Services, and a nonprofit agency that has experience in Farm to School Programs.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.3 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Farm to School Program within the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. The Department shall employ a director to administer and monitor the programs and activities related to the Oklahoma Farm to School Program with the advice of and guidance of a nonprofit food policy council.

B. The following agencies shall make staff available to the Oklahoma Farm to School Program for the purpose of providing professional consultation and staff support to assist the implementation of this act:

1. Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry;
2. State Department of Health;
3. State Department of Education; and
4. Department of Human Services.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.4 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The duties of the director of the Oklahoma Farm to School Program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Identifying and promoting the critical components of individual Farm to School Programs and advising the agencies on needed actions and strategies to implement the Oklahoma Farm to School Program;
2. Establishing a partnership with public and nonprofit sources to implement a public engagement campaign and establish a structure to facilitate communication between farmers and school districts;
3. Providing leadership at the state level to encourage school districts to develop and improve school nutrition plans using locally grown farm-fresh products;
4. Conducting workshops, training sessions, and technical assistance to school food services directors, personnel, farmers, and produce distributors and processors regarding the demand for and the availability of Oklahoma farm products; and
5. Seeking grants from private donations and other funding sources.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.5 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall establish an Internet website for the Oklahoma Farm to School Program. A direct link to the Oklahoma Farm to School Program website shall be maintained on the homepages of the State of Oklahoma, the State Department of Education, and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry.

B. The purpose of the Oklahoma Farm to School Program website shall be to assist schools and farmers in the coordination of fresh food procurement.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.6 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry is authorized to promulgate rules as necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

SECTION 9. 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 19th day of April, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2006.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives