

CS for EHB 2655

1 THE STATE SENATE  
2 Tuesday, April 11, 2006

3 Committee Substitute for  
4 ENGROSSED  
5 House Bill No. 2655

6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 2655 - By:  
7 WINCHESTER, LINDLEY, SHELTON, AUFFET, DORMAN, McMULLEN, PRUETT,  
8 SHERRER, SHOEMAKE and WALKER of the House and LAWLER of the Senate.

9 [ agriculture - Oklahoma Farm to School Program Act -  
10 codification-  
11 emergency ]

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

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.1 of Title 2, unless there  
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Farm  
17 to School Program Act".

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

21 A. The Legislature recognizes that:

22 1. Farm to School Programs link schools and Oklahoma farms in  
23 order to provide schools with fresh and minimally processed farm  
24 commodities for inclusion in school meals and snacks, to help

1 children develop healthy eating habits, and to improve Oklahoma  
2 farmers' incomes and direct access to markets; and

3 2. The benefits of Farm to School Programs often include  
4 activities that provide students with hands-on learning  
5 opportunities, such as farm visits, cooking demonstrations, and  
6 school gardening and composting programs, and integrate nutrition  
7 and agriculture education into school curricula.

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

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

19 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.3 of Title 2, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Farm to School Program  
23 within the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry.

1 The Department shall employ a director to administer and monitor the  
2 programs and activities related to the Oklahoma Farm to School  
3 Program with the advice of and guidance of a nonprofit food policy  
4 council.

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

- 9 1. Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry;
- 10 2. State Department of Health;
- 11 3. State Department of Education; and
- 12 4. Department of Human Services.

13 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.4 of Title 2, unless there  
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 The duties of the director shall include, but not be limited to:

- 17 1. Identifying and promoting the critical components of  
18 individual Farm to School Programs and advising the agencies on  
19 needed actions and strategies to implement the Oklahoma Farm to  
20 School Program;
- 21 2. Establishing a partnership with public and nonprofit sources  
22 to implement a public engagement campaign and establish a structure  
23 to facilitate communication between farmers and school districts;

1           3. Providing leadership at the state level to encourage school  
2 districts to develop and improve school nutrition plans using  
3 locally grown farm-fresh products;

4           4. Conducting workshops, training sessions, and technical  
5 assistance to school food services directors, personnel, farmers,  
6 and produce distributors and processors regarding the demand for and  
7 the availability of Oklahoma farm products; and

8           5. Seeking grants from private donations and other funding  
9 sources.

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

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

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

1 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-60.6 of Title 2, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

7 SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
8 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 4-5-06 - DO  
12 PASS, As Amended.