

3 Senate Bill No. 1734

4 SENATE BILL NO. 1734 - By: MORGAN of the Senate and WILT of the  
5 House.

6 An Act relating to state government; recognizing the  
7 Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development  
8 established under certain Executive Order; authorizing  
9 certain members to continue serving until terms expire and  
10 successors are appointed; stating purpose; providing for  
11 membership, appointment, terms, removal, chair, meetings,  
12 and compensation of the Council; prohibiting members from  
13 profiting from certain transactions; providing duties and  
14 responsibilities of the Council; providing for coordination  
15 of the Council's activities; providing for coordination of  
16 administrative and staffing support for the Council;  
17 recognizing the Workforce Solutions Staff Team established  
18 under certain Executive Order; providing for composition,  
19 purpose and certain other members of the Staff Team;  
20 providing for certain funding for the Council; requiring  
21 certain members of the Council to assist in certain funding;  
22 providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

24 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
25 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.10d of Title 74, unless  
26 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

27 A. The Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic  
28 Development established under the authority of Executive Order 2005-  
29 27 is hereby recognized by the Legislature as the State's Workforce  
30 Investment Board. The Council succeeded and was established in lieu  
31 of the Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board. Appointed members of  
32 the Council serving under the authority of Executive Order 2005-27

1 when this act becomes effective shall continue to serve until their  
2 terms have expired and their successors have been duly appointed.  
3 Pursuant to the federal Workforce Investment Act, the purpose of the  
4 Council shall be to:

5 1. Guide the development of a comprehensive and coordinated  
6 workforce development system for the state and monitor its  
7 operation; and

8 2. Review and make recommendations that will align the  
9 workforce system, including education, with the economic development  
10 goals of the state for the purpose of creating workforce and  
11 economic development systems that are integrated and shall provide  
12 Oklahoma a competitive advantage in a global economy.

13 B. Membership of the Council shall include representatives of  
14 private employers who reflect Oklahoma's projected and desired  
15 business and industry base and public officials from agencies which  
16 provide programs and services related to workforce, education and  
17 economic development. All Council members shall be in positions to  
18 influence policy and hiring decisions within their organizations.  
19 Initial appointments to the Council shall conform to the following  
20 described schedule:

21 1. A majority of the Council shall come from described private  
22 sector employers;

1           2. State officials shall include incumbents or designees of the  
2 following named offices, or their successors in office or function:

3           a. Governor,

4           b. two members of the Senate, appointed by the President  
5           Pro Tempore,

6           c. two members of the House of Representatives, appointed  
7           by the Speaker,

8           d. Secretary of Commerce and Tourism,

9           e. Secretary of Education,

10          f. Secretary of Human Services,

11          g. Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
12          Education,

13          h. Director of Career and Technology Education,

14          i. State Superintendent of Public Instruction,

15          j. Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security  
16          Commission, and

17          k. Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation  
18          Services,

19          3. Two members from organizations with experience in the  
20 delivery of workforce services, including community colleges or  
21 other community-based workforce service organizations;

22          4. Two members from organizations or individuals that have  
23 experience with respect to youth activities;

1           5. Two members that are chief elected officials from a city and  
2 county;

3           6. Two members that represent labor organizations; and

4           7. Additional members, at the discretion and pleasure of the  
5 Governor, may be appointed representing:

- 6           a. local welfare agencies,
- 7           b. public housing agencies,
- 8           c. administrators of programs which receive federal or  
9           state human resources funding,
- 10          d. representative of a Local Workforce Board Chairs  
11          Association,
- 12          e. entities with special knowledge and qualifications  
13          regarding special educational and career development  
14          needs of hard-to-serve individuals,
- 15          f. state and local economic development representatives,
- 16          g. juvenile justice programs,
- 17          h. state human resources organization,
- 18          i. representatives of tourism, agriculture, corrections  
19          and transportation,
- 20          j. representatives of Oklahoma Tribes or Nations, and
- 21          k. representatives of minorities in Oklahoma;

22          C. Private sector members shall be appointed by and serve at  
23 the pleasure of the Governor for a two-year term beginning October

1 1, 2005, and may be reappointed. However, of the initial private  
2 sector members appointed, half shall be appointed for an initial  
3 term of one (1) year beginning October 1, 2005. Private members may  
4 be removed from office for failure to attend three consecutive  
5 Council meetings. The chair of the Council shall be from the  
6 private sector and shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure  
7 of the Governor.

8 D. The Council shall meet at such times and places as it deems  
9 appropriate. Members shall serve without compensation. Council  
10 members employed by a state agency shall be reimbursed travel  
11 expenses related to their service on the Council as authorized by  
12 state law by their respective state agency. Legislative members of  
13 the Council shall be reimbursed by their respective houses for  
14 necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
15 duties as authorized by state law. Remaining Council members shall  
16 also be reimbursed travel expenses related to their service on the  
17 Council by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as authorized by  
18 state law. No member of the Council shall profit, directly or  
19 indirectly, from any transaction with the Council.

20 E. The duties and responsibilities of the Council in the  
21 development, monitoring and aligning of the workforce system with  
22 economic development shall include:

- 1           1. Performing the duties required of the state governance board  
2 by the federal Workforce Investment Act;
- 3           2. Identifying the human resource investment needs of Oklahoma  
4 business and industry, together with those of the citizens of the  
5 state, so that each might respond to and meet the needs of the  
6 others and thus together build a robust, diversified economy;
- 7           3. Reviewing and evaluating workforce development programs  
8 within the state, formulate recommendations to increase their  
9 efficiency and effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and align with  
10 economic goals. Recommendations shall be communicated to the  
11 Governor, Legislature, state and federal government agencies and  
12 appropriate individuals and entities within the private sector;
- 13           4. Increasing academic capability and technical skills within  
14 the state workforce and foster lifelong learning among Oklahoma's  
15 citizens;
- 16           5. Strengthening collaboration among institutions which provide  
17 education and training services, government agencies which  
18 coordinate employment and other human resource investment  
19 activities, and Oklahoma business and industry to create a seamless  
20 system to nurture healthy economic development; and
- 21           6. Enhancing rural economic development capability and  
22 capacity, giving particular attention to regional collaboration and  
23 partnering.

1 F. Activities of the Council shall be coordinated by the  
2 Secretary of Commerce and Tourism and directed by the Deputy  
3 Secretary of Commerce for Workforce Development, or their successors  
4 in office or function. Administrative and staffing support for the  
5 Council shall be coordinated by the Office of Workforce Solutions  
6 within the Department of Commerce.

7 G. The Workforce Solutions Staff Team established under the  
8 authority of Executive Order 2005-27 is hereby recognized by the  
9 Legislature. This interagency team shall be comprised of executive  
10 level staff from all workforce, education and economic development  
11 agencies of the state for the purpose of providing staff support to  
12 the Council and to create efficiencies, eliminate duplication, and  
13 eliminate barriers to jointly providing a service delivery system.  
14 Other members may be included on this team as the Governor,  
15 Secretary of Commerce or Deputy Secretary of Commerce may deem  
16 necessary to accomplish this goal.

17 H. The Council shall be supported by funds available to state  
18 agencies pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations. Each  
19 member of the Council whose agency qualifies pursuant to state and  
20 federal law to receive and use such funds shall assist by providing  
21 support and funding of the Council in carrying out the  
22 responsibilities of the Council.

1           SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
2 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR, dated 2-13-06  
6 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.