STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2655 By: Winchester

AS INTRODUCED

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.

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 1960 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1961 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Legislature, recognizing that school children in the state need access to fresh, tasty, and nutritious food and that farmers in the state need a market for the food they grow, hereby establishes the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Program. The purpose of the Program shall be to:

1. Provide fresh, high-quality, locally grown foods to school cafeterias;

2. Teach students about healthy eating through nutrition education and school gardens, thereby setting the stage for life-long healthy eating habits; and

3. Provide Oklahoma farmers with new markets for their products.

B. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall be the lead public agency for general administration and monitoring of the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Program and activities related to the Program. The State Department of Education shall provide assistance and staff support for the implementation of the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Act.

C. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall establish guidelines for the award of grants to:

1. School districts to incorporate food from local farmers on school menus and to implement nutrition education programs; and

2. Local farmers to do the planning, development, and implementation of the new school market.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1962 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2007, the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to study the obstacles to the operation of the Oklahoma Farm-to-School Program and make recommendations to address the problems and issues.

B. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

C. The Secretary of Agriculture shall serve as chair of the Task Force and shall call the meetings of the Task Force. Staffing assistance shall be provided by the staff of the Oklahoma Department

of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the State Department of Education.

D. The Task Force shall present a written report to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate by December 31, 2006.

E. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force but may receive travel reimbursement as follows:

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

2. Other members of the Task Force may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of duties by the respective appointing authorities in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

SECTION 5. 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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