

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1956

By: Justice of the Senate

and

Armes of the House

3
4
5
6
7 An Act relating to agriculture; amending 2 O.S. 2001,
8 Section 2-30, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter
9 216, O.S.L. 2004 (2 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 2-30),
10 which relates to the Agriculture Mediation Program;
11 clarifying administrators of program; authorizing
12 mediation services for certain entities; providing
13 for funding for certain mediation services;
14 authorizing contributions to support certain
15 mediation services; creating the Agriculture
16 Mediation Board; designating appointing authority for
17 membership of the Board; providing for membership;
18 authorizing the adoption of certain procedures;
19 requiring roster of certain persons; repealing 70
20 O.S. 2001, Section 3430, which relates to the
21 Institute for Issue Management and Alternative
22 Dispute Resolution; and declaring an emergency.

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

24 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2001, Section 2-30, as last
amended by Section 1, Chapter 216, O.S.L. 2004 (2 O.S. Supp. 2009,
Section 2-30), is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-30. A. The Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program
under the direction of the ~~Institute for Issue Management and
Alternative Dispute Resolution established as provided for in
Section 3430 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ Agriculture

1 Mediation Board as established by subsection D of this section, is
2 authorized to provide mediation services for all types of
3 agricultural and rural living issues to all individuals, businesses
4 and state and federal agencies that are engaged in production
5 agriculture, and agriculturally or environmentally-related
6 activities. The Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program shall
7 operate in accord with the Agriculture Credit Act of 1987, as
8 amended, 7 CFR 785, and applicable state and federal laws.

9 B. The State Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and
10 Forestry, in cooperation with ~~the Institute for Issue Management and~~
11 ~~Alternative Dispute Resolution and~~ appropriate entities such as the
12 Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, is authorized and directed
13 to develop and implement a plan to increase public awareness of the
14 Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program. The plan shall be designed
15 to provide information about the program to producers, ~~of~~
16 ~~agricultural products~~ agriculture lenders, and others which ~~might~~
17 ~~benefit from the program as well as to agricultural lenders~~ may have
18 reason to utilize the services. The plan ~~shall~~ may include but not
19 be limited to the following:

20 1. Providing informational literature to every county extension
21 office in the state;

22 2. Providing information about the program to agricultural
23 lenders in this state by any feasible means, including but not
24 limited to electronic media;

1 3. Securing such public service announcements from broadcast
2 media as is feasible;

3 4. Cooperating with and providing information to court
4 officials; and

5 5. Such other measures as may be calculated to develop a
6 greater awareness of the existence and benefits of the Oklahoma
7 Agriculture Mediation Program.

8 C. The program is primarily funded by a grant from the United
9 States Department of Agriculture and may provide mediation free of
10 charge to the participants. The State Department of Agriculture,
11 Food, and Forestry, pursuant to the grant recertification provisions
12 at 7 CFR 785 and this section, may provide contributions or
13 allocations in support of the Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation
14 Program, as available. The program may seek supporting
15 contributions from other stakeholders in support of its operations.

16 D. The Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program shall establish
17 and maintain an Agriculture Mediation Board whose members are
18 engaged in or serving agriculture. The Board shall be comprised of
19 a five-person Executive Committee and fifteen-member Advisory Board.
20 The five-person Executive Committee shall be comprised of one
21 designee each from the two largest general farm organizations of
22 this state, one designee from the largest farm commodity group, one
23 designee appointed by the Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee,
24 and one designee appointed by the Chair of the House Agriculture

1 Committee. The Advisory Board shall be advisory in capacity,
2 comprised of members drawn from the following categories and
3 appointed by the Executive Committee:

- 4 1. Each of the United States Department of Agriculture
5 agencies;
- 6 2. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry;
- 7 3. The Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension,
8 including IFMAPS;
- 9 4. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission;
- 10 5. An Oklahoma attorney;
- 11 6. Two Oklahoma farmers or ranchers;
- 12 7. A representative from an agriculture banking institution;
- 13 8. A representative from the Oklahoma Conference of Churches;
- 14 9. A mediator from the federal, state or private sector; and
- 15 10. Such other members from public entities or private
16 organizations as may be needed.

17 E. The Agriculture Mediation Board shall adopt such procedures
18 as may be necessary for the management of the program.

19 F. The program will maintain a roster of qualified mediators to
20 assist in servicing requests for mediation.

21 SECTION 2. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3430, is
22 hereby repealed.

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 Passed the Senate the 24th day of February, 2010.

4

5

Presiding Officer of the Senate

6

7 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,

8 2010.

9

10

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24