

3 Senate Bill No. 1956

4 SENATE BILL NO. 1956 - By: Justice of the Senate and Armes of the  
5 House.

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

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

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

25 Section 2-30. A. The Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program  
26 under the direction of the ~~Institute for Issue Management and~~  
27 ~~Alternative Dispute Resolution established as provided for in~~  
28 ~~Section 3430 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ Agriculture  
29 Mediation Board as established by subsection D of this section, is  
30 authorized to provide mediation services ~~for all types of~~  
31 ~~agricultural and rural living issues~~ to all individuals, businesses

1 and state and federal agencies that are engaged in production  
2 agriculture, and agriculturally or environmentally-related  
3 activities. The Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program shall  
4 operate in accord with the Agriculture Credit Act of 1987, as  
5 amended, 7 CFR 785, and applicable state and federal laws.

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

- 17 1. Providing informational literature to every county extension  
18 office in the state;
- 19 2. Providing information about the program to agricultural  
20 lenders in this state by any feasible means, including but not  
21 limited to electronic media;
- 22 3. Securing such public service announcements from broadcast  
23 media as is feasible;

1       4. Cooperating with and providing information to court  
2 officials; and

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

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

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

1 comprised of members drawn from the following categories and  
2 appointed by the Executive Committee:

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

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

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

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

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 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 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
4 dated 2-15-10 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.