

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 SENATE BILL 1723

By: Gumm

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to state government; directing
7 certain entity to develop and promote
8 entrepreneurship through programs and services;
9 requiring certain entity to establish a certain
10 network pursuant to agreement with the Department of
11 Commerce; providing for oversight by rule; directing
12 development of certain advisory board; defining
13 terms; providing directives for the Oklahoma
14 Entrepreneurship Network; directing the Oklahoma
15 Entrepreneurship Network to develop certain statewide
16 association; authorizing the creation of
17 entrepreneurship centers in all counties; stating
18 compliance with certain requirements for
19 entrepreneurship centers; authorizing certain
20 services by a group or individual under certain
21 circumstances; directing certain program development;
22 authorizing 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center to
23 make certain determination; requiring declaration of
24 certain designation; stating Legislative intent for
funding; providing procedures for appropriations and
acceptance of other monies; providing for
distribution of funds; authorizing certain
assistance; creating certain fund; providing for
receipt of funds; providing for expenditure;
providing for codification; and providing an
effective date.

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

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16 of Title 74, unless
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. In addition to the requirements pursuant to Section 5003.15
2 of this title, the 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center is directed
3 to develop and diversify the economy of this state through:

4 1. The provision of programs and services to facilitate the
5 growth and success of entrepreneurs; and

6 2. Promote results-driven collaboration of public and private
7 entities to create jobs and energize sustainable local economies
8 through the development of entrepreneurs in this state.

9 B. The 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center shall:

10 1. Operate a network of approved entities pursuant to an
11 agreement with the Department of Commerce. Such network, once
12 established, shall be known as the Oklahoma Entrepreneurship
13 Network; and

14 2. Comply with all reasonable and customary oversight measures
15 required by the Department of Commerce as may be established by
16 rule.

17 C. The network of approved entities may be developed by the
18 Center from any organization with an interest in promoting
19 entrepreneurship, such as an institution of higher education,
20 chamber of commerce, or economic development corporation of this
21 state.

22 D. The Department shall also develop by rule an advisory board
23 within the 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center to guide and advise
24 the operations of the network.

1 E. For purposes of Sections 1 through 5 of this act:

2 1. "Entrepreneur participant" means an individual who has a
3 business or an idea for a business and registers with the Oklahoma
4 Entrepreneurship Network; and

5 2. "Fund" means the Oklahoma Entrepreneurship Network Fund.

6 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.17 of Title 74, unless
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. The Oklahoma Entrepreneurship Network shall train and
10 refocus existing state and local resources to build a more
11 prosperous, dynamic, and sustainable economy throughout this state
12 by:

13 1. Providing coordinated training and services that enhance the
14 value of the state's existing infrastructure investments and make
15 the investments available to entrepreneur participants;

16 2. Developing a statewide network of entrepreneurship
17 developers and entrepreneurship centers as provided by Section 3 of
18 this act;

19 3. Developing a comprehensive network of knowledge, leadership,
20 and financial capital resources accessible through the network's
21 entrepreneurship developers and entrepreneurship centers;

22 4. Educating entrepreneur participants and generating awareness
23 of the network and its programs;

1 5. Identifying the most promising ventures through activities,
2 including business plan competitions, and assisting the ventures'
3 potential for job and wealth creation;

4 6. Developing evaluation methods to measure the effectiveness
5 of the network and the impact of entrepreneurship on local and
6 regional economies;

7 7. Developing best practices for successful entrepreneurship
8 and applied research regarding critical success factors for
9 entrepreneurial businesses to provide a strategic competitive
10 advantage for businesses in this state; and

11 8. Collaborating with existing local, state, and federal
12 agencies and economic development professionals to use the strengths
13 and assets of the agencies and professionals.

14 B. The network shall work locally, regionally, and statewide
15 with educators, agencies, organizations, networks, businesses,
16 economic developers, consultants, communities, researchers, or other
17 persons to develop and support strategies to assist entrepreneur
18 participants and improve the environment for entrepreneurial
19 development in this state.

20 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.18 of Title 74, unless
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. The Oklahoma Entrepreneurship Network shall develop a
24 statewide association of local individuals who are entrepreneurship

1 developers trained to analyze, evaluate, and develop business plans
2 and help local entrepreneur participants start, grow, or develop
3 their businesses.

4 B. The network may establish local entrepreneurship centers in
5 every county practicable, at which an entrepreneur participant may
6 access programs, necessary support, and online resources provided
7 and developed by the network. In establishing the entrepreneurship
8 centers, the network shall use existing infrastructure, public and
9 private organizations, and other resources, including chambers of
10 commerce, universities and community colleges, county extension
11 offices, and local business offices.

12 C. The network shall adopt requirements for entrepreneurship
13 centers. An organization shall meet the requirements adopted
14 pursuant to this section before hosting an entrepreneurship center.

15 D. An individual or group of individuals who have services,
16 resources, or expertise to offer entrepreneur participants may agree
17 to provide services through the network as an entrepreneurship
18 force.

19 E. After the network has established an entrepreneur center
20 pursuant to subsection C of this section, the 2nd Century
21 Entrepreneurship Center shall determine which communities have
22 demonstrated an ability and willingness to provide significant
23 support for, and services to, entrepreneurs seeking to make
24 investments that lead to the creation of new jobs and the

1 development, creation, manufacture, construction, fabrication or
2 assembly of new products or the development and offering of new
3 services.

4 The 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center shall declare any such
5 community an "Entrepreneur Ready Community", entitling said
6 communities to publicize such designation by any means deemed
7 appropriate by such communities.

8 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.19 of Title 74, unless
10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 The Oklahoma Entrepreneurship Network may develop:

- 12 1. Programs for:
- 13 a. business plan development, competitive enhancement,
14 and management skills development,
 - 15 b. entrepreneurship best practices training,
 - 16 c. entrepreneurship education in primary and secondary
17 schools and community colleges,
 - 18 d. expanding entrepreneurship in workforce development
19 programs,
 - 20 e. accessing sources of start-up and growth capital,
 - 21 f. training and assisting entrepreneurship agents who
22 facilitate and assist entrepreneurial efforts, and
 - 23 g. community readiness preparation and evaluation, and
24 community planning;

- 1 2. Methods for helping entrepreneur participants access other
- 2 loan, guarantee, and grant programs;
- 3 3. Necessary policies and regulations; and
- 4 4. Collaborations with other entities.

5 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.20 of Title 74, unless
7 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. It is hereby stated to be the intent of the Legislature to
9 provide funding for the Oklahoma Entrepreneurship Network as
10 established by the 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center.

11 B. State appropriations for the network shall be made as
12 otherwise provided by law and shall be directed to the Oklahoma
13 Department of Commerce, which shall not exercise any discretion with
14 respect to the expenditure of such funds but shall directly allocate
15 the appropriations to the network.

16 C. The Center is authorized to accept donations, grants or
17 endowments from any person, corporation or entity to implement the
18 provisions of Sections 1 through 5 of this act.

19 D. The advisory board established pursuant to subsection D of
20 Section 1 of this act shall be solely responsible for overseeing and
21 effecting the distribution of funds in furtherance of the purpose of
22 the Center.

23 E. The Center may receive assistance from any other state
24 agency or public entity to implement the provisions of the act,

1 including, but not limited to, administrative assistance, staffing
2 or legal counsel and provision of office space or equipment as
3 necessary. Assistance agreements may be made by memorandums of
4 understanding or as otherwise provided by law.

5 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.21 of Title 74, unless
7 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
9 for the 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center to be designated the
10 "Oklahoma Entrepreneurship Network Revolving Fund". The fund shall
11 be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and
12 shall consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Department of
13 Commerce or any other entity authorized to accept or expend funds on
14 behalf of the 2nd Century Entrepreneurship Center from any
15 authorized source. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund
16 are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the 2nd
17 Century Entrepreneurship Center for the purpose of implementing the
18 provisions of Sections 1 through 5 of this act. Expenditures from
19 the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer
20 against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State
21 Finance for approval and payment.

22 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

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