

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1444

By: Simpson

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; transferring
8 governance, supervision, management and control of
9 the Ardmore Higher Education Program from the Board
10 of Trustees for the Ardmore Higher Education Program
11 to the Regional University System of Oklahoma;
12 transferring all interests and obligations of the
13 Board of Trustees and the Ardmore Higher Education
14 Program; requiring assumption of obligations for
15 tenure and retirement by the Regional University
16 System of Oklahoma; requiring certain facilities to
17 serve as branch campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State
18 University in Ardmore; authorizing Regional
19 University System of Oklahoma to provide resources to
20 branch campus for certain purpose; requiring Oklahoma
21 State Regents for Higher Education to make college
22 credit courses and programs available to people of
23 Ardmore and southern Oklahoma; requiring
24 establishment of branch campus of Southeastern
Oklahoma State University at Ardmore; providing for
governance of Ardmore branch campus by Regional
University System of Oklahoma; providing for lower
division courses and programs to be offered by Murray
State College with right to defer to Southeastern
Oklahoma State University; establishing certain
advisory board; providing for membership; stating
duties; prohibiting duplication of certain courses
and programs; providing for the continued
relationship between certain institutions of higher
education; providing Murray State College exclusive
authority to offer certain courses; providing for a
transition period; allowing East Central University
to offer such courses as are mutually agreed to;
providing that Southeastern Oklahoma State University
shall be one of four educational providers; providing
that no additional appropriations be used for certain

1 purposes; allowing continuation of certain
2 relationship; providing for assumption of management;
3 repealing 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3213, which relates
4 to the Ardmore Higher Education Program; providing
5 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

7 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3515.1 of Title 70, unless there
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 A. The governance, supervision, management and control of the
11 Ardmore Higher Education Program is hereby transferred from the
12 Board of Trustees for the Ardmore Higher Education Program to the
13 Regional University System of Oklahoma, and all interests in real
14 property, facilities, equipment and appurtenances, state-
15 appropriated monies and all duties, obligations and liabilities of
16 the Ardmore Higher Education Program and any and all obligations of
17 the Board of Trustees of the Ardmore Higher Education Program for
18 and on behalf of the Ardmore Higher Education Program are
19 transferred to the Regional University System of Oklahoma.

20 Obligations for any and all plans for tenure or retirement of
21 employees of the Ardmore Higher Education Program, either through
22 the Ardmore Higher Education Program or the Board of Trustees for
23 the Ardmore Higher Education Program, shall be assumed by the
24 Regional University System of Oklahoma.

1 B. The facilities of the Ardmore Higher Education Program shall
2 serve as the branch campus in Ardmore of Southeastern Oklahoma State
3 University. The Regional University System of Oklahoma may provide
4 resources to the branch campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State
5 University in Ardmore to maintain its facilities in accordance with
6 its function and mission as provided by law.

7 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall make
8 undergraduate and graduate college credit courses and programs
9 available to the people of Ardmore and southern Oklahoma. The
10 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall provide courses
11 and programs through a branch campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State
12 University, which shall be established and located in Ardmore. The
13 branch campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University at Ardmore
14 shall be governed by the Regional University System of Oklahoma and
15 administered through Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

16 D. Murray State College shall operate a branch campus at
17 Southeastern Oklahoma State University at Ardmore and shall have the
18 exclusive authority to offer all lower division courses and programs
19 at the Southeastern Oklahoma State University at Ardmore campus.

20 E. The Board of Trustees for the Ardmore Higher Education
21 Program established pursuant to Section 3213 of Title 70 of the
22 Oklahoma Statutes on the effective date of this act shall serve as
23 an advisory board to the president of Southeastern Oklahoma State
24 University. The advisory board shall advise the president of

1 Southeastern Oklahoma State University on strategic directions for
2 the branch campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University at
3 Ardmore, including academic programming, student services, community
4 relations, and institutional advancement. The advisory board, in
5 coordination with the president of Southeastern Oklahoma State
6 University, shall establish bylaws and membership of the advisory
7 board.

8 F. Courses offered at Southeastern Oklahoma State University at
9 Ardmore shall not duplicate nursing program courses offered at East
10 Central University campus at Ardmore.

11 G. The consolidation of Ardmore Higher Education Center and
12 Southeastern Oklahoma State University shall protect the continuing
13 and historic relationship which exists between Ardmore Higher
14 Education Center, Murray State College, East Central University and
15 Oklahoma State University at Oklahoma City.

16 H. A five-year transition plan shall be developed by the staff
17 of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The transition shall be
18 completed by September 1, 2017. This transition plan shall be
19 flexible so that the plan may be expanded or contracted based on
20 factors such as enrollment, availability of local funding
21 initiatives, and increases in projected revenue.

22 I. There shall be no additional appropriated dollars allocated
23 for the consolidation of the Ardmore Higher Education Center into
24 Southeastern Oklahoma State University. No appropriated dollars

1 shall be used in the expansion of the existing campus. No
2 appropriated dollars shall be used for the construction of any
3 facilities at any new campus in Ardmore.

4 J. During the transition period beginning on the effective date
5 of this act and ending upon the completion of the transition, East
6 Central University shall be allowed to continue its historic course
7 and program offerings. After the transition is completed, East
8 Central University may offer programs and courses at the Ardmore
9 Center which East Central University and Southeastern Oklahoma State
10 University mutually agree are in the best interest of the community.

11 K. Upon completion of the transition, Southeastern Oklahoma
12 State University shall assume management of Ardmore Higher Education
13 Center and shall be one of four educational providers at the Ardmore
14 Center, which shall include Murray State College, East Central
15 University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Oklahoma
16 State University at Oklahoma City.

17 SECTION 2. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3213, is
18 hereby repealed.

19 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective September 1, 2012.

20

21 53-2-2432 ALM 1/18/2012 1:54:51 PM

22

23

24