

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 297

By: Justice

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Historical Society;  
8 creating the Heritage Preservation Act; creating the  
9 Heritage Preservation Grant Program; directing the  
10 Society to adopt certain rules and regulations;  
11 requiring Society to create application and  
12 evaluation criteria for grants; providing for  
13 evaluations; establishing eligibility requirements  
14 for certain entities; creating restrictions for use  
15 of grants; creating the Oklahoma Heritage  
16 Preservation Grant Review Committee; authorizing the  
17 Board of Directors to appoint committee members;  
18 requiring the committee to meet and enact certain  
19 procedures; authorizing the Board of Directors to  
20 award grants; requiring Society to provide staff  
21 support; creating the Heritage Preservation Revolving  
22 Fund; providing for deposits; setting forth  
23 limitations on monies deposited in the fund;  
24 providing for codification; providing an effective  
date; and declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 411 of Title 53, unless there is  
22 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Heritage  
24 Preservation Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 412 of Title 53, unless there is  
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Historical  
5 Society the Heritage Preservation Grant Program to provide financial  
6 assistance to cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, and tribal  
7 governments to operate and improve the effectiveness of museums and  
8 historical organizations.

9 B. The purpose of the Heritage Preservation Grant Program is to  
10 encourage the collecting, preserving, and sharing of Oklahoma  
11 history at the grassroots level in all parts of the state.

12 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 413 of Title 53, unless there is  
14 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. The Oklahoma Historical Society shall adopt rules  
16 establishing the Heritage Preservation Grant Program including, but  
17 not limited to, eligibility criteria, the application process, and  
18 grant award amounts.

19 B. The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors shall  
20 create weighted criteria to evaluate each application based on the  
21 potential for project sustainability, the impact on the scope of  
22 collections, public participation, and programming possibilities.

23 C. Oklahoma Historical Society staff shall evaluate each  
24 application based on the weighted criteria and adherence to program

1 requirements that include, but are not limited to, geographical  
2 balance, local financial match, and the existence of a strategic  
3 plan for the applicant organization, tribal division or governmental  
4 department. The evaluations shall be provided to the Heritage  
5 Preservation Grant Selection Committee of the Oklahoma Historical  
6 Society Board of Directors.

7 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 414 of Title 53, unless there is  
9 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 Entities eligible for grants from the Heritage Preservation  
11 Program shall be limited to Oklahoma municipal and county  
12 governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and nonprofit  
13 organizations incorporated within Oklahoma.

14 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 415 of Title 53, unless there is  
16 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 Grants awarded under the Heritage Preservation Program shall not  
18 be used for capital improvements or repairs. Grants may be used  
19 only for operating expenses for eligible entities engaged in  
20 collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma heritage. Preference  
21 will be given to projects affecting collections, educational  
22 programs, and exhibits. Grants may be used to support the  
23 development of strategic plans.  
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1           SECTION 6.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 416 of Title 53, unless there is  
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           A.   The President of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of  
5 Directors shall appoint an Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant  
6 Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing all grant  
7 applications.  The committee shall consist of five (5) to seven (7)  
8 members.

9           B.   The committee shall meet on a schedule to be established by  
10 the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors.

11           C.   The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Review Committee  
12 shall be provided the Oklahoma Historical Society staff evaluations  
13 of each application along with staff recommendations.

14           D.   The final recommendations of the Oklahoma Heritage  
15 Preservation Grant Review Committee shall be presented to the  
16 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors for action.

17           E.   The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors shall  
18 have the duty of awarding Heritage Preservation Grants to entities  
19 under the provisions of this act.

20           F.   Each member of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant  
21 Review Committee shall serve without compensation except that each  
22 member of the Committee shall receive reimbursement for travel  
23 expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act,  
24 Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

1 G. The meetings of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of  
2 Directors shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section  
3 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and the Oklahoma  
4 Open Records Act, Section 24A.1 et seq. of Title 51 of the Oklahoma  
5 Statutes.

6 H. Staff support for the execution of this act shall be  
7 provided by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

8 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 417 of Title 53, unless there is  
10 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving  
12 fund for the Oklahoma Historical Society to be designated the  
13 Heritage Preservation Revolving Fund. The fund shall be a  
14 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall  
15 consist of all monies deposited into the fund by law, gift,  
16 donation, grant or Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors  
17 allocation.

18 B. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby  
19 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma  
20 Historical Society for the purpose of providing grants for the  
21 collecting, preserving, and sharing of Oklahoma heritage pursuant to  
22 the Heritage Preservation Act. Monies accruing to the credit of the  
23 fund may also be used for direct costs of administering the  
24 provisions of this act.

1 C. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants  
2 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by  
3 law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

4 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

5 SECTION 9. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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