

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 510

By: Pederson of the Senate

3 and

4 Hilbert of the House  
5

6 An Act relating to agricultural associations and  
7 committees; amending 2 O.S. 2011, Sections 18-241,  
8 18-245, 18-246 and 18-251, which relate to the  
9 Oklahoma Sorghum Resources Act; modifying  
10 definitions; requiring unexpended balance to transfer  
11 at certain date; clarifying statutory language;  
12 modifying entity that designates referendum  
13 locations; designating Governor to certify results of  
14 referendum; repealing 2 O.S. 2011, Sections 18-242,  
15 as amended by Section 1, Chapter 107, O.S.L. 2013 (2  
16 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 18-242), 18-243, as amended  
17 by Section 16, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (2 O.S. Supp.  
18 2016, Section 18-243), 18-244, 18-247, 18-249 and 18-  
19 250, which relate to the Oklahoma Sorghum Resources  
20 Act; and providing an effective date.  
21  
22  
23  
24

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-241, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 18-241. As used in the Oklahoma Sorghum Resources Act:

1. "Commercial channels" means the sale of sorghum for any use,  
when sold to any commercial buyer, dealer, processor, cooperative,  
or to any person, public or private, who resells any sorghum or  
product produced from sorghum;

1        2. "Commercial quantities" means and includes all bushels of  
2 sorghum produced for market in any calendar year by any producer;

3        3. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Sorghum Commission;

4        4. "Department" means the ~~State~~ Oklahoma Department of  
5 Agriculture, Food, and Forestry;

6        5. "First purchaser" means any person buying or acquiring after  
7 harvest the property in or to sorghum from a sorghum producer. A  
8 mortgagee, pledgee, lienholder, or other person having a claim  
9 against the sorghum producer under a nonrecourse loan made against  
10 the sorghum after harvest shall be a purchaser. The term "first  
11 purchaser" shall not include a harvesting or threshing lienee;

12        6. ~~"Fiscal year" means the sorghum accounting year beginning~~  
13 ~~July 1 of each year and ending June 30 of the following year;~~

14        7. "President" means the President of the State Board of  
15 Agriculture;

16        8. ~~"Sorghum processor" means a person who commercially~~  
17 ~~manufactures products made from grain sorghum or animal feed; and~~

18        9. 7. "Sorghum producer" or "producer" means an individual  
19 engaged in the production of sorghum, who markets sorghum in  
20 commercial quantities in Oklahoma. Each individual determined to be  
21 an entity pursuant to rules promulgated by the United States  
22 Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency shall be considered a  
23 sorghum producer.  
24

1       SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-245, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       Section 18-245. A. 1. ~~Beginning ninety (90) days after the~~  
4 ~~election of the initial Oklahoma Sorghum Commission, there~~ There is  
5 hereby assessed a fee of one cent (\$0.01) per bushel upon all  
6 sorghum marketed by sorghum producers in this state and sold or  
7 handled through commercial channels. The fee shall be assessed and  
8 imposed upon the sorghum producer at the time of sale or delivery  
9 and shall be collected and remitted by the first purchaser to the  
10 Commission. Pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Sorghum  
11 Resources Act, no sorghum shall be subject to assessment of a fee  
12 more than once.

13       2. No assessments for sorghum shall be collected in accordance  
14 with this section while a national checkoff program for sorghum  
15 established pursuant to 7 CFR 1221 remains in effect. The  
16 collection of assessments in accordance with this section shall be  
17 reinstated upon suspension or termination of the program for sorghum  
18 established pursuant to 7 CFR 1221.

19       B. 1. The first purchaser shall collect the assessment by  
20 deducting the appropriate amount from the purchase price of the  
21 sorghum or from any funds advanced for that purpose.

22       2. The Commission, by registered or certified mail, shall  
23 notify each first purchaser of the duty to collect the assessment,  
24 the manner in which the assessment is to be collected, and the date

1 on or after which the first purchaser is to begin collecting the  
2 assessment.

3 3. The amount of the assessment collected shall be clearly  
4 shown on the sales invoice or other document evidencing the  
5 transaction. The first purchaser shall furnish a copy of the  
6 document to the sorghum producer.

7 4. The Commission shall establish, ~~by rule,~~ through bylaws the  
8 procedures for the collection and remittance of the assessment.

9 C. Any unexpended balance contained in the Oklahoma Sorghum  
10 Resources Fund as of November 1, 2017, shall be transferred and  
11 deposited to the credit of the General Revenue Fund of the State  
12 Treasury.

13 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-246, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 18-246. A. The first purchaser shall render and have  
16 on file a report along with remittance of the fees collected  
17 pursuant to the Oklahoma Sorghum Resources Act on the fifteenth of  
18 each calendar quarter. The report shall include the total amount of  
19 fees assessed by the first purchaser, the total amount of sorghum  
20 purchased and other information as may be required by the Oklahoma  
21 Sorghum Commission.

22 B. If the first purchaser fails to make a report and remittance  
23 as required by the Oklahoma Sorghum Resources Act, the Commission  
24 shall determine the amount collected and owed by the first

1 purchaser, which shall be prima facie correct. Any first purchaser  
2 having failed to make the report as required by the Oklahoma Sorghum  
3 Resources Act shall, within ten (10) days after notice of the  
4 computed collection amount established by the Commission is mailed  
5 to the first purchaser, pay the computed collection amount, together  
6 with a penalty of five percent (5%) of the computed collection  
7 amount. The first purchaser may dispute the computed collection  
8 amount established by the Commission and request the Commission to  
9 hold a hearing to redetermine the amount of the computed collection  
10 and the penalty to be imposed. No payment shall be made until the  
11 Commission enters its order determining the amount of payment. The  
12 payment of the determined collection amount and penalty shall be  
13 paid within ten (10) days of notice of the decision.

14 C. At any time the ~~State~~ Oklahoma Department of Agriculture,  
15 Food, and Forestry may request an audit of the first purchaser to  
16 determine whether the collection and proper disposition of the  
17 collected assessment were made pursuant to the provisions of the  
18 Oklahoma Sorghum Resources Act ~~and rules promulgated thereto.~~

19 D. The first purchaser shall retain any records or reports  
20 relating to the collection of the assessment for at least three (3)  
21 years.

22 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-251, is  
23 amended to read as follows:  
24

1       Section 18-251. A. Sorghum producers may petition for a  
2 referendum to determine if the assessment is to be continued, at any  
3 time ~~after five (5) years following November 1, 1997.~~ The President  
4 of the State Board of Agriculture shall call and conduct a  
5 referendum if the petitions bear signatures of ten percent (10%) of  
6 the sorghum producers. No more than one referendum shall be  
7 conducted in any one thirty-six-month period. The ~~State~~ Oklahoma  
8 Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall determine if the  
9 petition bears the required number of valid signatures. The  
10 President shall announce the referendum at least thirty (30) days  
11 prior to the day of voting. At least thirty (30) days before the  
12 referendum, the Department shall mail a notice of the referendum to  
13 all known sorghum producers in the State of Oklahoma who market  
14 sorghum in commercial quantities. The notice shall specify the  
15 dates, times, and places for holding the referendum, and shall  
16 include a sample ballot with the following wording:

17       DO YOU FAVOR A CONTINUATION OF THE ONE CENT (\$0.01) PER BUSHEL  
18       ASSESSMENT ON SORGHUM MARKETING IN OKLAHOMA FOR UTILIZATION,  
19       RESEARCH, EDUCATION, PROMOTION, AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT?

20                       YES ( )                                       NO ( )

21       B. Places within each county for conducting the referendum  
22 shall be designated by the ~~Oklahoma Sorghum Commission~~ Agricultural  
23 Extension Division of Oklahoma State University, and voting in each  
24 county shall be supervised by the county agricultural extension

1 agent, or person designated by the Department. The Oklahoma Sorghum  
2 Commission shall ensure sufficient ballots and supplies necessary  
3 for the conduct of the voting and tabulation of returns. Certified  
4 results of the referendum in each district shall be transmitted  
5 within twenty-four (24) hours after voting ends to the President,  
6 and the ballots shall be transmitted to the President within forty-  
7 eight (48) hours. Ballots shall be preserved by the President for a  
8 period of at least three (3) months.

9 C. 1. The results of the referendum shall be determined by the  
10 President, and the results certified to the ~~Chair of the Commission~~  
11 Governor who shall issue a proclamation declaring the results.

12 2. The Commission shall bear expenses of advertising and  
13 conducting the referendum.

14 D. Whenever the question of levying the assessments is  
15 disapproved, by failure of sixty percent (60%) of the sorghum  
16 producers voting in the referendum to favor continuation of the  
17 assessments, the proclamation declaring the result shall provide for  
18 the termination of the assessments on April 30, following the date  
19 of the referendum.

20 SECTION 5. REPEALER 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-242, as  
21 amended by Section 1, Chapter 107, O.S.L. 2013 (2 O.S. Supp. 2016,  
22 Section 18-242), is hereby repealed.

1       SECTION 6.       REPEALER       2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-243, as  
2 amended by Section 16, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (2 O.S. Supp. 2016,  
3 Section 18-243), is hereby repealed.

4       SECTION 7.       REPEALER       2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-244, is  
5 hereby repealed.

6       SECTION 8.       REPEALER       2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-247, is  
7 hereby repealed.

8       SECTION 9.       REPEALER       2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-249, is  
9 hereby repealed.

10       SECTION 10.       REPEALER       2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-250, is  
11 hereby repealed.

12       SECTION 11. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

13       Passed the Senate the 7th day of March, 2017.

14

15

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

16

17       Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
18 2017.

19

20

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

21

22

23

24