

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1921

By: Fincher of the House

3 and

4 Daniels of the Senate

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6  
7 An Act relating to virtual presence; creating the  
8 Oklahomans Virtually Everywhere Act of 2019; defining  
9 terms; directing agencies to develop certain  
10 proposals; providing for information contained in  
11 proposals; providing for codification; and declaring  
12 an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 36.1 of Title 62, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahomans  
18 Virtually Everywhere Act of 2019". The Oklahomans Virtually  
19 Everywhere Act creates a statewide initiative that allows Oklahomans  
20 to provide their expertise throughout the world without leaving  
21 their communities by Oklahoma becoming the leader in telepresence  
22 and virtual presence.

23 B. For purposes of this section:

24 1. "Telepresence" means the ability of people who are not  
physically present with each other to collaborate and interact with

1 others in meetings, conferences, office work and other contexts as  
2 though they were physically present; and

3 2. "Virtual presence" means that the interactions between  
4 individuals and groups virtually present in meetings, conferences,  
5 office work and other social contexts are indistinguishable between  
6 those who are physically present and those who are not.

7 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall lead  
8 an effort in conjunction with OneNet, the State Board of Career and  
9 Technology Education, State Department of Education, Oklahoma  
10 Department of Libraries, Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the  
11 Office of Management and Enterprise Services on behalf of all state  
12 agencies to create a research and development proposal to make  
13 Oklahoma a leader in telepresence, with the ultimate goal of being a  
14 leader in virtual presence as the technology matures. The proposal  
15 shall include a proposed budget and be prepared for the legislative  
16 session following the effective date of this act. Each agency in  
17 this subsection shall designate a liaison for this effort.

18 D. The proposal shall:

19 1. Include a proposed budget and be prepared for the budget  
20 hearings of the legislative session;

21 2. Be created in consultation with businesses and state  
22 agencies;

23 3. Include a strategy for training Oklahoma organizations to  
24 use existing technology for telepresence and virtual presence; and

1       4. Include an overview of the current state of telepresence in  
2 Oklahoma education, government and business, with the following:

- 3           a. research and actions necessary to become a leader in  
4           telepresence in education,
- 5           b. research and actions necessary to become a leader in  
6           telepresence in government,
- 7           c. research and actions necessary to become a leader in  
8           telepresence in business,
- 9           d. research and actions necessary to become a leader in  
10          telepresence in Oklahoma rural communities,
- 11          e. identification of potential partners and sources of  
12          matching or other funds,
- 13          f. strategy for training Oklahoma organizations to use  
14          existing technology for telepresence and virtual  
15          presence, and
- 16          g. any additional information deemed necessary by the  
17          participants.

18       SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 12th day of March, 2019.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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8 Presiding Officer of the Senate