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April 2, 2019

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1921

By: Fincher of the House

and

Daniels of the Senate

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

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

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

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

B. For purposes of this section:

1 1. "Telepresence" means the ability of people who are not
2 physically present with each other to collaborate and interact with
3 others in meetings, conferences, office work and other contexts as
4 though they were physically present; and

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

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

20 D. The proposal shall:

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

23 2. Be created in consultation with businesses and state
24 agencies;

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

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

5 a. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
6 telepresence in education,

7 b. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
8 telepresence in government,

9 c. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
10 telepresence in business,

11 d. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
12 telepresence in Oklahoma rural communities,

13 e. identification of potential partners and sources of
14 matching or other funds,

15 f. strategy for training Oklahoma organizations to use
16 existing technology for telepresence and virtual
17 presence, and

18 g. any additional information deemed necessary by the
19 participants.

20 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
21 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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23
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
4 April 2, 2019 - DO PASS
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