

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

SENATE BILL 1890

By: Montgomery

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public finance; creating the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Act; declaring purpose of act; defining terms; creating the Board of the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Program; establishing members and terms; specifying duties of the Board; requiring Board to prepare certain investment policy statement; requiring public hearing for investment policy; authorizing the State Treasurer to invest certain monies; requiring Treasurer to file certain reports; authorizing the Board to establish certain investment options; requiring Board to set a default investment option, which may be modified; requiring certain monies to be allocated to individual program accounts; relieving state of certain liability; requiring Board to provide certain information; requiring Board to establish and maintain website; establishing timeline for registration for program; requiring disclosure of certain information; authorizing employees to opt out of program; requiring employers to provide certain notification; establishing terms of operation for program; establishing liability under this act; prohibiting employers from acting as fiduciary over program; prohibiting employer from certain acts; construing provision; requiring Board to submit certain reports; requiring Treasury to make certain reports public; establishing penalties for violation of act; requiring Treasury to provide certain notice of penalty by mail; establishing terms for protest against proposed penalty; establishing terms for refund of penalty in certain circumstances; establishing penalty as tax liability of certain persons; classifying certain information as confidential; authorizing Treasury to charge Board for certain costs; establishing date of operation for

1 penalties; authorizing Board to promulgate rules with  
2 Treasury; creating the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust  
3 Program Fund; establishing terms of fund;  
4 establishing the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust  
5 Administrative Fund; establishing terms of fund;  
6 providing for codification; and providing an  
7 effective date.

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

9 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9020 of Title 62, unless there  
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. It is hereby declared to be the purpose of this act to  
13 provide for an individual retirement account program for working  
14 Oklahomans.

15 B. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Oklahoma Sooner  
16 Choice Trust Act".

17 C. As used in this act:

18 1. "Board" means the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Board  
19 established pursuant to this act;

20 2. "Employee" means any individual who is eighteen (18) years  
21 of age or older, who lives in this state or is employed by an  
22 employer in this state and whose wages are subject to withholding;

23 3. "Employer" means a person or entity engaged in a business,  
24 industry, profession, trade or other enterprise in Oklahoma, whether  
25 for profit or not for profit, employing more than twenty-five

1 employees at any one time during the previous calendar year, that  
2 has been in business at least two (2) years, that pays its employees  
3 through any kind of payroll service or any kind of automatic,  
4 electronic, software or online payroll system and that has not  
5 offered a qualified retirement plan including but not limited to a  
6 plan qualified under Sections 401(a), 401(k), 403(a), 403(b),  
7 408(k), 408(p) or 457(b) of Title 26 the Internal Revenue Code. It  
8 shall not include the state, its political subdivisions, any office,  
9 department, division, bureau, board, commission or agency of the  
10 state or one of its political subdivisions or any public body in the  
11 state;

12 4. "Enrollee" means any employee enrolled in the program;

13 5. "Fund" means the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Program Fund  
14 established pursuant to this act;

15 6. "Internal Revenue Code" means the federal Internal Revenue  
16 Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. Section 1 et seq., or any successor law, in  
17 effect for the calendar year;

18 7. "IRA" means a traditional Individual Retirement Account or a  
19 Roth Individual Retirement Account under Section 408A of Title 26  
20 the Internal Revenue Code of the United States;

21 8. "Participating employer" means an employer that is required  
22 to facilitate a payroll deposit retirement savings arrangement as  
23 provided for in this act for its employees who are enrollees in the  
24 program.

1        9. "Payroll deposit retirement savings arrangement" means an  
2 arrangement by which a participating employer remits employee  
3 payroll deduction contributions to the program;

4        10. "Program" means the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Program  
5 established pursuant to this act;

6        11. "Small employer" means a person or entity engaged in a  
7 business, industry, profession, trade or other enterprise in the  
8 state, whether for profit or not for profit, that employed fewer  
9 than twenty-five employees at any one time in the state throughout  
10 the previous calendar year or has been in business less than two (2)  
11 years, or both, but that notifies the Board that it is interested in  
12 facilitating the program for its employees;

13        12. "Total fees and expenses" means all fees, costs and  
14 expenses including, but not limited to, administrative expenses,  
15 investment expenses, investment advice expenses, accounting costs,  
16 actuarial costs and legal costs; and

17        13. "Wages" means any compensation within the meaning of  
18 Section 219(f)(1) of Title 26 the Internal Revenue Code that is  
19 received by an enrollee from a participating employer during the  
20 calendar year.

21        SECTION 2.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9021 of Title 62, unless there  
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:  
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1       A. There is hereby established a retirement savings program,  
2 known as the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Program, in the form of an  
3 automatic enrollment payroll deduction individual retirement  
4 account. The program shall be administered by the Oklahoma Sooner  
5 Choice Trust Board, created pursuant to subsection B of this  
6 section, for the purpose of promoting greater retirement savings for  
7 private sector employees in a convenient, low cost and portable  
8 manner.

9       B. There shall be created the Board of the Oklahoma Sooner  
10 Choice Trust Program.

11       1. The Board shall consist of the following members:

- 12           a. the State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's  
13             designee, who shall serve as chair,
- 14           b. the State Auditor and Inspector, or the State Auditor  
15             and Inspector's designee,
- 16           c. the Director of the Office of Management and  
17             Enterprise Services or the Director's designee,
- 18           d. two (2) representatives of the general public with  
19             expertise in financial advising or investment, or  
20             both, of which one representative shall be currently  
21             employed in at least one of the specified areas and  
22             appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of  
23             the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one shall  
24             be retired from at least one of the specified areas

1 and appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation  
2 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
3 e. a representative of a business trade association,  
4 appointed by the Governor.

5 2. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

6 3. The initial terms of the appointees shall be as follows:

- 7 a. the employee representative recommended by the  
8 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, for four (4)  
9 years; the retired representative recommended by the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, for two (2)  
11 years; the Representative of a business trade  
12 association, for three (3) years; thereafter, all of  
13 the appointees shall be for terms of four (4) years,  
14 b. a vacancy in the term of an appointed board member  
15 shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term  
16 in the same manner as the original appointment,  
17 c. each appointment by the Governor not appointed upon  
18 the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the  
19 Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
20 shall be subject to the advice and consent of the  
21 Senate. In case of a vacancy during the interim, the  
22 Governor shall make a temporary appointment until the  
23 next session of the Senate, at which time the Governor  
24 shall appoint a person to fill the office.

1       4. Each board member, prior to assuming office, shall take an  
2 oath that the member will diligently and honestly administer the  
3 affairs of the Board and that the member will not knowingly violate  
4 or willingly permit to be violated any of the provisions of law  
5 applicable to the program. The oath shall be certified by the  
6 officer before whom it is taken and immediately filed with the  
7 Secretary of State.

8       5. The Board, the individual members of the Board, the trustee  
9 appointed under paragraph 2 of subsection C of this section, any  
10 other agents appointed or engaged by the Board and all persons  
11 serving as program staff shall discharge their duties with respect  
12 to the program solely in the interest of the enrollees and  
13 beneficiaries of the program as follows:

14           a. by investing with the care, skill, prudence and  
15 diligence under the prevailing circumstances that a  
16 prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar  
17 with those matters would use in the conduct of an  
18 enterprise of a similar character and with similar  
19 aims, and

20           b. by using any contributions paid by employees directly  
21 and through participating employers pursuant to  
22 automatic payroll deductions and contributions into  
23 the fund exclusively for the purpose of paying  
24 benefits to the enrollees of the program, for the cost

1 of administration of the program and for investments  
2 made for the benefit of the program.

3 C. In addition to the other duties and responsibilities  
4 provided for in this act, the Board shall:

5 1. Design, establish and operate the program in a manner that:

- 6 a. accords with the best practices for retirement savings  
7 vehicles,
- 8 b. maximizes participation, savings and sound investment  
9 practices,
- 10 c. maximizes simplicity, including ease of administration  
11 for participating employers and enrollees,
- 12 d. provides an efficient product to enrollees by pooling  
13 investment funds, where available,
- 14 e. ensures the portability of benefits, and
- 15 f. provides for the deaccumulation of enrollee assets in  
16 a manner that maximizes financial security in  
17 retirement;

18 2. Appoint a trustee to the fund in compliance with Section 408  
19 of the Internal Revenue Code;

20 3. Explore and establish investment options, subject to the  
21 provisions of subsection C of Section 3 of this act, that offer  
22 employees returns on contributions and the conversion of individual  
23 retirement savings account balances to secure retirement income  
24 without incurring debt or liabilities to the state;



1       4. Establish the process by which interest, investment earnings  
2 and investment losses are allocated to individual program accounts;

3       5. Make and enter into contracts, agreements, memoranda of  
4 understanding, partnerships, or any other arrangements necessary for  
5 the administration of the program and the fund, including, but not  
6 limited to, retaining and contracting with similar automatic IRA  
7 programs managed by other states, investment managers, private  
8 financial institutions, other financial and service providers,  
9 consultants, actuaries, counsel, auditors, third-party  
10 administrations and other professionals as necessary;

11       6. Conduct a review of the performance of any investment  
12 vendors not less than once every two (2) years, including, but not  
13 limited to, a review of returns, fees and customer service, and post  
14 a copy of reviews conducted under this subsection to an Internet  
15 website established and maintained by the Board;

16       7. Determine the number and duties of staff members needed to  
17 administer the program and employ a staff including appointing a  
18 program administrator and entering into contracts to make employees  
19 of the State Treasury available to administer the program;

20       8. Ensure that moneys in the fund be held and invested as  
21 pooled investments described in subsection C of Section 3 of this  
22 act, with a view to achieving cost savings through efficiencies and  
23 economies of scale;

1        9. Evaluate and establish the process by which an enrollee is  
2 able to contribute a portion of the wages of the employee to the  
3 program for automatic deposit of those contributions and the process  
4 by which the participating employer facilitates a payroll deposit  
5 retirement savings arrangement to forward those contributions and  
6 related information to the program, including, but not limited to,  
7 contracting with financial service companies and third-party  
8 administrators with the capability to receive and process employee  
9 information and contributions for payroll deposit retirement savings  
10 arrangements or similar arrangements;

11        10. Design and establish the process for enrollment by an  
12 employee including the process by which an employee can opt not to  
13 participate in the program, select a contribution level, select an  
14 investment option and terminate participation in the program;

15        11. Evaluate and establish the process by which an individual  
16 may voluntarily enroll in and make contributions to the program;

17        12. Accept any grants, appropriations or other moneys from the  
18 state, any unit of federal, state, or local government or any  
19 person, firm, partnership or corporation solely for deposit into the  
20 fund, whether for investment or administrative purposes;

21        13. Evaluate the need for, and procedure as needed, insurance  
22 against any and all loss in connection with the property, assets or  
23 activities of the program, and indemnify as needed each member of  
24

1 the Board from personal loss or liability resulting from the actions  
2 or inaction of a member of the Board;

3 14. Make provisions for the payment of administrative costs and  
4 expenses for the creation, management and operation of the program,  
5 including the costs associated with this subsection and Section 3 of  
6 this act, and keep annual administrative fees as low as possible,  
7 but in no event shall total fees exceed one and sixth-tenths percent  
8 (1.6%) of the total balance of the fund except during the first five  
9 (5) years after the establishment of the program. Subject to  
10 appropriation, the state may pay administrative costs associated  
11 with the creation and management of the program until sufficient  
12 assets are available in the fund for that purpose. Thereafter, all  
13 administrative costs of the fund, including repayment of any funds  
14 provided by the state, shall be paid only out of moneys on deposit  
15 therein, except that private funds or federal funding received under  
16 paragraph 12 of this section in order to implement the program shall  
17 not be repaid unless those funds were offered contingent upon the  
18 promise of repayment;

19 15. Allocate administrative fees to individual retirement  
20 accounts in the program on a pro rata basis;

21 16. Set default, minimum and maximum contribution levels in  
22 accordance with limits established for IRAs by the Internal Revenue  
23 Code;

1        17. Facilitate education and outreach to employers and  
2 employees, including the promotion of the benefits of retirement  
3 savings and other information that promote financial literacy  
4 necessary for sound financial decision-making;

5        18. Facilitate compliance by the program with all applicable  
6 requirements for the program under the Internal Revenue Code,  
7 including tax qualification requirements or any other applicable law  
8 and accounting requirements;

9        19. Carry out the duties and obligations of the program in an  
10 effective, efficient and low-cost manner;

11        20. Exercise any and all other powers reasonably necessary for  
12 implementation of the purposes, objectives and provisions of this  
13 act pertaining to the program; and

14        21. Deposit into the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust  
15 Administrative Fund all grants, gifts, donations, fees and earnings  
16 from investments from the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Program Fund  
17 that are used to recover administrative costs. All expenses of the  
18 Board shall be paid from the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust  
19 Administrative Fund.

20        SECTION 3.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9022 of Title 62, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23        A. The Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Board shall annually  
24 prepare and adopt a written statement of investment policy that  
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1 includes a risk management and oversight program. This investment  
2 policy shall prohibit the Board, program and fund from borrowing for  
3 investment purposes. The risk management and oversight program  
4 shall be designed to ensure that an effective risk management system  
5 is in place to monitor the risk levels of the program and fund  
6 portfolio, to ensure that the risks taken are prudent and properly  
7 managed, to provide an integrated process for overall risk  
8 management and to assess investment returns as well as risk to  
9 determine if the risk taken are adequately compensated compared to  
10 applicable performance benchmarks and standards. The Board shall  
11 consider the statement of investment policy and any changes in the  
12 investment policy at a public hearing.

13 B. Monies in the fund shall be invested or reinvested by the  
14 State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall comply with any and all  
15 applicable federal and state laws and rules, as well as any and all  
16 rules promulgated by the Board with respect to the program and the  
17 investment of the fund, including but not limited to the investment  
18 policy. He or she shall provide reports as the Board deems  
19 necessary for the Board to oversee the Treasurer's performance and  
20 the performance of the fund.

21 C. 1. The Board may establish any or all of the following  
22 investment options:

- 23 a. a capital preservation fund, which prioritizes the  
24 security of the deposit over the rate of return. If  
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1 the Board elects to establish a capital preservation  
2 fund, the Board may provide that the first One  
3 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) in contributions made by,  
4 or on behalf of an enrollee shall be deposited into  
5 the capital preservation fund and the Board may  
6 provide for an account revocation period during which,  
7 if the enrollee chooses to end participation in the  
8 program, the enrollee may withdraw the deposited  
9 amounts from the capital preservation fund without  
10 penalty,

11 b. a life-cycle fund, or

12 c. any other investment option deemed appropriate by the  
13 Board.

14 2. The Board shall designate by rule one of the investment  
15 options as the default investment option for enrollees who fail to  
16 elect an investment option and may amend, modify or repeal such  
17 investment options as it deems necessary or proper and may  
18 subsequently select, by rule, a different investment option as the  
19 default investment option.

20 3. Interest, investment earnings and investment losses shall be  
21 allocated to individual program accounts as established by the Board  
22 pursuant to subsection C of Section 2 of this act. A retirement  
23 savings benefit of an individual under the program shall be an  
24 amount equal to the balance in the program account of that

1 individual on the date the retirement savings benefit becomes  
2 payable. The state shall have no liability for the payment of any  
3 benefit to any participant in the program.

4 D. 1. Prior to the opening of the program for enrollment, the  
5 Board shall design and disseminate to all employers an employer  
6 information packet and an employee information packet, which shall  
7 include background information on the program, appropriate  
8 disclosures for employees, and information regarding the vendor  
9 Internet website described in paragraph 10 of subsection E of this  
10 section. The Board shall establish and maintain an Internet website  
11 designed to make available to employers, employees and members of  
12 the general public the employee information packet, the employer  
13 information packet and any reports, documents or information deemed  
14 appropriate by the Board.

15 2. For the first six (6) months following the implementation of  
16 the program, the Board shall provide a process through which  
17 employers may register for the program.

18 3. The employee information packet designed by the Board shall  
19 include a disclosure form. The disclosure form shall include, but  
20 not be limited to, the following explanations:

- 21 a. the benefits and risks associated with making  
22 contributions to the program,
- 23 b. the mechanics of how to make contributions to the  
24 program,

- c. how to opt out of the program,
- d. how to participate in the program with a level of employee contributions other than the default rate
- e. the process for withdrawal of retirement savings,
- f. how to obtain additional information about the program,
- g. that employees seeking financial advice should contact financial advisors, that participating employers are not able to provide financial advice and that participating employers are not liable for decisions employees make pursuant to this act,
- h. that the program is not an employer-sponsored retirement plan, and
- i. that the program fund is not guaranteed by the state.

4. The employee information packet shall also include a form for an employee to note his or her decision to opt out of participation in the program or elect to participate with a level of employee contributions other than the default rate.

5. Participating employers shall supply the employee information packet to new employees at the time of hiring and new employees may opt out of participation in the program or elect to participate with a level of employee contributions other than the default rate chosen by the Board at that time.



1 E. The program shall be implemented and enrollment of employees  
2 shall begin within twenty-four (24) months after the effective date  
3 of this act. The Board may extend the time period within which the  
4 program is implemented by no more than twelve (12) months. The  
5 Board may implement, at its discretion, the program in two phases  
6 based on the size of the employers participating, as measured by the  
7 number of employees per employer, with the program implemented  
8 sooner for larger employers. The following provisions of this  
9 section shall be in force after the Board opens the program for  
10 enrollment:

11 1. Each employer shall facilitate a payroll deposit retirement  
12 savings arrangement to allow each eligible employee to participate  
13 in the program not more than nine (9) months after the Board opens  
14 the program for enrollment;

15 2. Employers shall automatically enroll in the program each of  
16 their employees who has opted into the program using the form  
17 described in paragraph 4 of subsection D of this section and shall  
18 facilitate payroll deposit retirement savings arrangements for their  
19 employees and, on behalf of the employees, deposit these funds into  
20 the program;

21 3. Enrollees shall have the ability to select a contribution  
22 level into the fund. This level may be expressed as a percentage of  
23 wages or as a dollar amount up to the deductible amount for the  
24 taxable year of the enrollee under Section 219(b)(1)(A) of Title 26

1 of the Internal Revenue Code. Enrollees may change their  
2 contribution level no more than once every calendar quarter, subject  
3 to rules promulgated by the Board. If an enrollee fails to select a  
4 contribution level using the form described in paragraph 4 of  
5 subsection D of this section, then the enrollee shall contribute  
6 five percent (5%) of the wages of the enrollee to the program,  
7 unless the Board chooses a different default rate, so long as the  
8 contributions do not cause the total contributions to the IRA for  
9 the year to exceed the deductible amount for the taxable year of the  
10 enrollee under Section 219(b)(1)(A) of Title 26 the Internal Revenue  
11 Code;

12 4. Enrollees may select an investment option from the permitted  
13 investment options listed in subsection C of this section.  
14 Enrollees may change their investment option in the manner specified  
15 by rules promulgated by the Board, which shall include  
16 specifications regarding how frequently enrollees may change their  
17 investment options. If an enrollee fails to select an investment  
18 option, that enrollee shall be placed in the investment option  
19 selected by the Board as the default under subsection C of this  
20 section. If the Board has not selected a default investment option  
21 under this act, then an enrollee who fails to select an investment  
22 option shall be placed in the life-cycle fund investment option  
23 provided for in subsection C of this section;

1        5. Following initial implementation of the program pursuant to  
2 this section, at least once every year, participating employers  
3 shall designate an open enrollment period during which employees who  
4 previously opted out of the program may enroll in the program;

5        6. a. For any employee hired by an employer more than six  
6                (6) months after the Board opens the program for  
7                enrollment, the employer shall enroll the employee in  
8                the program no later than three (3) months following  
9                the date of hire of the employee, if the employee opts  
10              into the program prior to being enrolled.

11            b. Any newly hired employee who has previously been  
12                enrolled in the program shall have the option of  
13                making direct contributions into the existing account  
14                of the employee, provided that subparagraph a of this  
15                paragraph also applies to the employer of the newly  
16                hired employee who has been previously enrolled in the  
17                program;

18        7. An employee who opts out of the program who subsequently  
19 wants to participate through the payroll deposit retirement savings  
20 arrangement of the participating employer may only enroll during the  
21 designated open enrollment period of that participating employer or  
22 if permitted by the participating employer at an earlier time;

23        8. Employers shall retain the option to set up or provide  
24 coverage under any type of employer-sponsored retirement plan, such  
25

1 as a defined benefit plan or a 401(k), or to offer an automatic  
2 payroll deduction IRA, instead of having a payroll deposit  
3 retirement savings arrangement to allow employee participation in  
4 the program;

5 9. An employee may terminate his or her participation in the  
6 program at any time in a manner prescribed by the Board;

7 10. The Board may establish and maintain or contract with  
8 another state offering a marketplace to provide access to, an  
9 Internet website designed to assist employers in identifying private  
10 sector providers of retirement arrangements that can be set up by  
11 the employer rather than allowing employee participation in the  
12 program under this act. The Board shall provide public notice of  
13 the availability of and the process for inclusion on the Internet  
14 website before it becomes publicly available; and

15 11. Each employer is responsible for the tasks described in  
16 paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection, but the employer may contract  
17 with a third-party to perform those tasks on behalf of the employer.

18 F. Employee contributions deducted by the participating  
19 employer through payroll deduction, less any amount withheld for  
20 state income tax pursuant to rules adopted by the Board in  
21 consultation with the State Treasurer, shall be made by the  
22 participating employer to the fund before the deadline established  
23 by those rules, using one or more payroll deposit retirement savings  
24 arrangements established by the Board under this act.

1       G. 1. The state shall have no duty or liability to any party  
2 for the payment of any retirement savings benefits accrued by any  
3 individual under the program. Any financial liability for the  
4 payment of retirement savings benefits in excess of funds available  
5 under the program shall be borne solely by the entities with whom  
6 the Board contracts to provide insurance to protect the value of the  
7 program.

8       2. No state entity, board, commission or agency or any officer,  
9 employee or member thereof is liable for any loss or deficiency  
10 resulting from investments selected under this act, except for any  
11 liability that arises out of a breach of fiduciary duty.

12       H. 1. Participating employers shall not have any liability for  
13 the decision of an employee to participate in or opt out of the  
14 program or for the investment decisions of the Board or of any  
15 enrollee.

16       2. The program is not an employer-sponsored plan and it is not  
17 operated or administered by the employer. A participating employer  
18 shall not be a fiduciary or considered to be a fiduciary over the  
19 program, and shall not be liable for investment returns, program  
20 design and benefits paid to program participants. A participating  
21 employer shall not contribute to the IRA of a participating employee  
22 or bear responsibility for the administration, investment or  
23 investment performance of the program, or for any required or  
24 permitted communications between participating employees and program

1 administrators. Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve  
2 employers from their responsibility for enrolling employees and  
3 transmitting or arranging for transmission of payroll deductions to  
4 the program, distributing materials to employees or complying with  
5 the open enrollment period of the program.

6 I. 1. The Board shall annually submit the following to the  
7 Governor, the State Treasurer, and the Legislature:

8 a. an audited financial report, prepared in accordance  
9 with generally accepted accounting principles, on the  
10 operations of the program for each calendar year, to  
11 be submitted no later than July 1 of the following  
12 year,

13 b. a report prepared by the Board including, but not  
14 limited to, a summary of the benefits provided by the  
15 program, the number of enrollees in the program, the  
16 percentage and amounts of investment options and rates  
17 of return, fees paid to any vendors or contractors for  
18 purposes of implementing or operating the program and  
19 other information that is relevant to make a full and  
20 effective disclosure of the operations of the program  
21 and the fund.

22 2. The annual audit shall be made by an independent certified  
23 public account and shall include, but is not limited to, direct and  
24 indirect costs attributable to the use of outside consultants,

1 independent contractors and any other persons who are not state  
2 employees for the administration of the program.

3 3. The State Treasurer shall make available to the public on  
4 its Internet website all reports provided to the Treasury pursuant  
5 to this subsection.

6 4. In addition to any other statements or reports required by  
7 law, the Board shall provide periodic reports at least annually to  
8 participating employers, reporting the names of each enrollee  
9 employed by the participating employer and the amounts of  
10 contributions made through the participating employer on the behalf  
11 of each employee pursuant to automatic payroll deductions and  
12 contributions during the reporting period, as well as to enrollees,  
13 reporting contributions and investment income allocated to,  
14 withdrawals from and balances in their program accounts for the  
15 reporting period. The reports may include any other information  
16 regarding the program as the Board determines is appropriate.

17 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9023 of Title 62, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. 1. An employer who fails without reasonable cause to enroll  
21 any employee who has not opted out of participation in the program  
22 within the time prescribed under subsection E of Section 3 of this  
23 act shall be subject to the following:  
24

- a. for the first calendar year during which at any point a violation occurs, a written warning by the Treasury,
- b. for the second calendar year during which at any point a violation occurs, a fine of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for each employee who was neither enrolled in nor opted out of participation in the program,
- c. for the third and fourth calendar year during which at any point a violation occurs, a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each employee who was neither enrolled in nor opted out of participation in the program, and
- d. for the fifth and any subsequent calendar year during which at any point a violation occurs, a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each employee who was neither enrolled in nor opted out of participation in the program.

2. An employer who collects employee contributions but fails to remit any portion of the contributions to the fund shall be subject to a penalty of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the first offense and Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the second and each subsequent offense.

B. After a determination that an employer is subject to penalty pursuant to this section, the State Treasurer shall issue a notice



1 of proposed penalty to the employer. For purposes of subsection A  
2 of this section, the notice issued by the Treasury to the employer  
3 shall state the number of employees for which the penalty is  
4 proposed under subparagraph (c) or (d) of paragraph 1 of subsection  
5 A of this section and the total amount of penalties proposed. For  
6 purposes of paragraph 2 of section A of this section, the State  
7 Treasurer shall issue a notice of proposed penalty to the employer  
8 stating the total amount of penalties proposed under the paragraph.  
9 Upon the expiration of ninety (90) days after the date on which the  
10 notice of proposed penalty was issued, the penalties specified  
11 therein shall be deemed assessed, unless the employer had filed a  
12 protest with the Office of the State Treasurer under subsection C of  
13 this section. If, within ninety (90) days after the date on which  
14 the notice of proposed penalty was issued, a protest is filed under  
15 subsection C of this section, the penalties specified in the notice  
16 shall be deemed assessed when the decision of the Office with  
17 respect to the protest is final.

18 C. A written protest about the proposed penalty shall be filed  
19 with the Office of the State Treasurer in a form prescribed by the  
20 State Treasurer, setting forth grounds on which the protest is  
21 based. If a protest is filed within ninety (90) days after the date  
22 the notice of proposed penalty is issued, the State Treasurer shall  
23 reconsider the proposed penalty and shall grant the employer a  
24 hearing. As soon as practicable after a reconsideration and hearing

1 of the protest filed by the employer, the State Treasurer shall  
2 issue a notice of decision to the employer, setting for his or her  
3 findings of fact and the basis of decision. The decision shall  
4 become final.

5 D. As soon as practicable after the penalties specified in a  
6 notice of proposed penalty are deemed assessed, the State Treasurer  
7 shall give notice to the employer liable for any unpaid portion of  
8 the penalty, stating the amount due and demanding payment. He or  
9 she shall provide a payment plan to employers for purposes of  
10 complying with the demand of payment for the penalty.

11 E. An employer who has overpaid a penalty assessed under this  
12 section may file a claim for refund with the Office of the State  
13 Treasurer. A claim shall be in writing in a form prescribed by the  
14 State Treasurer and shall state the specific grounds upon which it  
15 is founded. As soon as practicable after a claim for refund is  
16 filed, the Office shall examine it and either issue a refund or  
17 issue a notice of denial. If a protest is filed, the Office shall  
18 reconsider the denial and grant the employer a hearing. As soon as  
19 practicable after the reconsideration and hearing, the Office shall  
20 issue a notice of decision to the employer. The notice shall set  
21 forth briefly the State Treasurer's findings of fact and the basis  
22 of decision in each case decided in whole or in part adversely to  
23 the employer. A denial of a claim for refund shall be final ninety  
24 (90) days after the date of issuance of the notice of the denial,

1 except for those amounts denied as to which the employer has filed a  
2 protest with the Office. If a protest has been timely filed, the  
3 decision shall become final.

4 F. No notice of proposed assessment shall be issued with  
5 respect to a calendar year after June 30 of the fourth subsequent  
6 calendar year. No claim for a refund may be filed more than one (1)  
7 year after the date of payment of the amount to be refunded.

8 G. Whenever a notice is required by this section, it shall be  
9 issued by first class mail addressed to the person concerned at the  
10 last known address of that person.

11 H. All books and records and other papers and documents  
12 relevant to the determination of any penalty due under this section  
13 shall, during business hours of the day, be subject to inspection by  
14 the State Treasurer or authorized representatives of the State  
15 Treasurer.

16 I. For purposes of any provision of state law allowing the  
17 State Treasurer or any other agency of this state to offset an  
18 amount owed to a taxpayer against a tax liability of that taxpayer  
19 or allowing the State Treasurer to offset an overpayment of tax  
20 against any liability owed to the state, a penalty assessed under  
21 this section shall be deemed to be a tax liability of the employer  
22 and any refund due to an employer shall be deemed to be an  
23 overpayment of tax of the employer.  
24

1 J. Except as provided in this subsection, all information  
2 received by the State Treasurer from returns filed by an employer or  
3 from any investigation conducted under the provisions of this act  
4 shall be confidential, except for official purposes within the  
5 Office of the State Treasurer or pursuant to official procedures for  
6 collection of penalties assessed under this act. No provision of  
7 this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the State  
8 Treasurer from divulging information to an authorized representative  
9 of the employer or to any person pursuant to a request or  
10 authorization made by the employer or by an authorized  
11 representative of the employer.

12 K. The Office of the State Treasurer may charge the Board a  
13 reasonable fee for its costs in performing its duties under this  
14 section to the extent that those costs have not been recovered from  
15 penalties imposed under this section.

16 L. This section shall become operative nine (9) months after  
17 the Board notifies the State Treasurer that the program has been  
18 implemented. Upon receipt of the notification from the Board, the  
19 Office of the State Treasurer shall immediately post on its Internet  
20 website a notice stating that this section is operative and the date  
21 that it is first operative. This notice shall include a statement  
22 that, rather than enrolling employees in the program under this act,  
23 employers may sponsor or provide coverage under an alternative  
24 arrangement, including but not limited to a defined benefit plan, a

1 401(k) plan or an automatic payroll deduction IRA offered through a  
2 private provider. The Board shall provide a link to the vendor  
3 Internet website as prescribed in subsection E of Section 3 of this  
4 act.

5 M. The Board, in consultation with the Treasury, shall  
6 promulgate any rules necessary for the implementation of this act.

7 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9024 of Title 62, unless there  
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 A. There is hereby created in the Office of the State Treasurer  
11 a fund to be designated as the Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Program  
12 Fund. The Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Board, as established in  
13 this act, shall act as its trustee.

14 B. The fund shall include the individual retirement accounts of  
15 enrollees, which shall be accounted for as individual accounts.  
16 Monies in the fund shall consist of monies received from enrollees  
17 directly and through participating employers pursuant to automatic  
18 payroll deductions and contributions to savings made pursuant to  
19 this act.

20 C. The fund shall be operated in a manner determined by the  
21 Board; provided, that the fund is operated so that the accounts of  
22 enrollees established under the program meet the requirements for  
23 IRAs under the Internal Revenue Code. The amounts deposited in the  
24 fund shall not constitute property of the state and the fund shall

1 not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the  
2 state. Amounts on deposit in the fund shall not be commingled with  
3 state funds and the state shall have no claim to or against, or  
4 interest in, such funds.

5 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9025 of Title 62, unless there  
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 There is hereby created in the Office of the State Treasurer a  
9 fund to be designated as the "Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust  
10 Administrative Fund". The Oklahoma Sooner Choice Trust Board shall  
11 use moneys in the administrative fund to pay for administrative  
12 expenses it incurs in the performance of its duties under this act.  
13 The Board shall use moneys in the administrative fund to cover  
14 startup administrative expenses it incurs in the performance of its  
15 duties under this act. The administrative fund may receive any  
16 grants or other moneys designated for administrative purposes from  
17 the state, or any unit of federal or local government, or any other  
18 person, firm, partnership or corporation. Any interest earnings  
19 that are attributable to moneys in the administrative fund shall be  
20 deposited into the administrative fund.

21 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.  
22

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