

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1675

By: Pugh

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; creating the Higher Education Administrative Realignment Act; providing short title; providing definition; directing certain boards of regents to make certain selection by certain date; providing for assistance; providing for creation of certain advisory committee to make certain selections by certain date; requiring submission of report; providing for contents of report; providing for implementation of certain selections in certain academic year; directing certain boards of regents to serve as boards of trustees; providing for supervision of institutions of higher education created after certain date; providing certain construction; providing for codification; providing an effective date; 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 3104 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher Education Administrative Realignment Act".

B. As used in this section "constitutional board of regents" means the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, the Board

1 of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges,
2 and the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges.

3 C. By January 1, 2024, the following boards of regents
4 governing institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
5 Education shall select a constitutional board of regents that will
6 assume supervision, management, and control of the institution(s)
7 the board of regents oversees and shall notify the Oklahoma State
8 Regents for Higher Education of its selection:

9 1. The Board of Regents of the University of Science and Arts
10 of Oklahoma;

11 2. The Board of Regents of Carl Albert State College;

12 3. The Board of Regents of Eastern Oklahoma State College;

13 4. The Board of Regents of Murray State College;

14 5. The Board of Regents of Redlands Community College;

15 6. The Board of Regents of Seminole State College; and

16 7. The Board of Regents of Western Oklahoma State College.

17 D. The Chancellor of Higher Education and the Oklahoma State
18 Regents for Higher Education shall assist the boards of regents
19 included in subsection C of this section with selecting a
20 constitutional board of regents.

21 E. If a board of regents included in subsection C of this
22 section is unable to select or declines to select a constitutional
23 board of regents by January 1, 2024, the Oklahoma State Regents for
24 Higher Education shall establish an advisory committee comprised of

1 a representative from each constitutional board of regents, the
2 Chancellor of Higher Education, and a representative from each board
3 of regents included in subsection C of this section. By June 30,
4 2024, the advisory committee shall select a constitutional board of
5 regents for each board of regents included in subsection C of this
6 section that has not made a selection by January 1, 2024.

7 F. The advisory committee established pursuant to subsection E
8 of this section shall submit a report by August 31, 2024, to the
9 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker
10 of the House of Representatives that includes:

11 1. The selection of constitutional board of regents made by
12 each board of regents included in subsection C of this section and
13 the selections made by the advisory committee pursuant to subsection
14 E of this section; and

15 2. Any proposed statutory changes required to implement the
16 selections.

17 G. Beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year:

18 1. Changes in governance due to selection of a constitutional
19 board of regents pursuant to this section shall be implemented; and

20 2. The boards of regents included in subsection C of this
21 section shall be known as boards of trustees and shall advise
22 constitutional boards with supervision, management, and control over
23 them.

1 H. Upon the effective date of this act, any new institution of
2 higher education created to be part of The Oklahoma State System of
3 Higher Education shall be placed under the supervision, management,
4 and control of a constitutional board of regents. A board of
5 trustees may be established to advise the constitutional board.

6 I. Nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing a board
7 of regents included in subsection C of this section from retaining
8 its own institutional identity, mission, admissions requirements,
9 and tuition and fee structures.

10 J. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may
11 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

13 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
14 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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