

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1827

By: Bullard

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to tourism; creating the Fly In  
8 Oklahoma Act; providing short title; sunseting  
9 certain program; stating purpose of program; stating  
10 eligibility for grants; providing for administration  
11 through Office of the Lieutenant Governor; providing  
12 for collaboration with the Oklahoma Tourism and  
13 Recreation Department; setting maximum funds; stating  
14 use of grant funds; directing the Oklahoma Tourism  
15 and Recreation Department to promulgate rules;  
16 authorizing case studies of grant applications;  
17 authorizing repayment of certain grants; directing  
18 submission of certain applications for grants to the  
19 legislature by certain date; construing certain  
20 authority; providing for codification; and providing  
21 an effective date.

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

23 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2230.2 of Title 74, unless there  
25 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

26 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Fly In Oklahoma  
27 Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2230.3 of Title 74, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. Pursuant to Oklahoma Sunset Law, there is hereby created the  
5 Fly In Oklahoma grant program to continue until November 2028, and  
6 such program shall be subject to renewal. The purpose of the grant  
7 program shall be to incentivize qualified potential tourism areas  
8 within the state through fly-in opportunities by improving airports,  
9 air traffic facilities, runways, landing strips, aircraft hangers,  
10 fly-in restaurants and other associated travel-related businesses  
11 and advertising that are accessible primarily by aircraft.

12 B. Public owned or operated airports, landing airstrips,  
13 airplane tiedown facilities, hangers or storage facilities, runways,  
14 aircraft repair facilities and aircraft-related tourism areas shall  
15 be eligible to apply for the Fly In Oklahoma grant program. The  
16 program shall be administered through the Office of the Lieutenant  
17 Governor, Cabinet Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, in  
18 collaboration with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to  
19 develop public fly-in opportunities that promote, advertise and  
20 attract aircraft tourism within this state.

21 C. The total maximum grant fund shall be One Million Dollars  
22 (\$1,000,000.00). The funds shall be derived from legislative  
23 appropriations and other public and private sources of monies  
24 including other grants and matching funds received by this state.

1 The grants awarded through the Fly In Oklahoma Act shall only be  
2 available for development and improvement of infrastructure relating  
3 to potential fly-in tourism in this state, state tourism advertising  
4 campaigns and for new construction and infrastructure in nearby  
5 targeted fly-in areas that will increase air traffic to the existing  
6 businesses, restaurants, natural resources and tourism attractions  
7 through improved fly-in opportunities.

8 D. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department shall  
9 promulgate rules, procedures, forms and grant application materials  
10 to solicit and receive grant applications from eligible private  
11 businesses and political subdivisions within this state and to  
12 administer this program. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
13 shall conduct case studies on eligible grant applications to  
14 determine the feasibility and potential financial impact for the  
15 best award of grant funds awarded under this program.

16 E. Fly In Oklahoma grants may be required to be repaid to this  
17 state over a term of years as specified in a written grant contract  
18 or such grants may be offered as a partial financial incentive that  
19 requires partial or no repayment as determined on a case-by-case  
20 basis and specified in the written grant contract. All potential  
21 grant applications deemed fiscally prudent for tourism and  
22 consideration by this state shall be submitted to the Legislature  
23 through the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of  
24 the House of Representatives by January 1 each year. The

1 Legislature shall conduct a review of each grant under consideration  
2 before any grant awards are made by the Office of the Lieutenant  
3 Governor, Cabinet Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage. Upon  
4 approval of a grant award, the Legislature shall communicate its  
5 approval by Joint Resolution. Upon final approval by Joint  
6 Resolution of the Legislature, the grant may be awarded by written  
7 grant contract entered between the approved business or political  
8 subdivision of this state and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation  
9 Department with approval by the Cabinet Secretary of Tourism,  
10 Wildlife and Heritage.

11 F. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary limiting this  
12 state's authority to provide financial assistance to any political  
13 subdivision or public trust of this state or to offer state funds to  
14 private businesses for a public-related purpose, the Lieutenant  
15 Governor shall be authorized under the Fly In Oklahoma Act to  
16 partnership with this state's private businesses, political  
17 subdivisions or both for purposes of tourism investments in the  
18 airways-related industries of this state.

19 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.  
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