

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

SENATE BILL 614

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; affording certain rights to students enrolled in and attending institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; directing institutions to establish a Safe Campus Committee; providing for membership; providing method for reporting violations of certain rights; directing certain committee to create certain due process plan; requiring plan to include certain components; 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 2129 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A student enrolled in and attending an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall be afforded the following rights:

1. The right to public and free expression of religion, speech and peaceable assembly including but not limited to:

- a. the right to participate in religious student associations free from discrimination pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2119 through 2119.4 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- b. the right to engage in expressive activity on campus pursuant to the provisions of Section 2120 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and
- c. the right to an unbiased education that does not endorse, favor, promote, demean, show hostility toward or intentionally undermine any particular religion, nonreligious faith or religious perspective;

2. The right to an unbiased education that does not endorse, favor or promote socialism, communism or Marxism and that is free from anti-American bias; and

3. The right to an unbiased learning environment that is free from the display of flags or propaganda of any organization or symbol of socialism, communism, Marxism or anti-American sentiment.

B. Each institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall establish a Safe Campus Committee to be composed of at least seven (7) members. The committee shall be composed of students who are enrolled full time in the institution, full-time faculty employed by the institution, members of the institution's administration and community representatives.

1 C. Students enrolled in an institution of higher education and
2 faculty employed by an institution of higher education may report
3 violations of the rights provided for in subsection A of this
4 section to the Safe Campus Committee. Reports may be made in a
5 manner that protects the identity of the accuser from retribution.

6 D. The Safe Campus Committee shall create a due process plan
7 for students and faculty that includes, at a minimum, the following:

8 1. Designation of a hotline or email address to submit reports
9 of violations of the rights provided for in subsection A of this
10 section;

11 2. Procedures for investigating and implementing punishment for
12 false accusations;

13 3. Procedures for reporting to law enforcement suspected
14 violations that may constitute criminal activity or reasonably have
15 the potential to endanger campus safety;

16 4. A requirement that reported violations be investigated by
17 the Safe Campus Committee in a timely manner and that individuals
18 involved in the reported violations be notified of the committee's
19 findings; and

20 5. A procedure for the Safe Campus Committee to hear appeals of
21 the committee's findings.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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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.
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