

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3543

6 By: Caldwell (Chad)

7  
8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to higher education; establishing the  
10 Oklahoma Free Speech Committee to the Oklahoma State  
11 Regents for Higher Education; specifying duties of  
12 the committee; directing for completion of free  
13 speech survey; directing the committee to provide or  
14 approve training materials; directing for collection  
15 of complaints; requiring training; providing for  
16 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3205.11 of Title 70, unless  
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 There is hereby created the Oklahoma Free Speech Committee to  
22 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

23 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3205.12 of Title 70, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The duties of the Oklahoma Free Speech Committee shall be to:

- 1        1. Review the free speech policies of Oklahoma public
- 2 universities;
- 3        2. Review any free speech complaints filed with the committee
- 4 following Section 4 of this act;
- 5        3. Review university training on free speech for improvements;
- 6        4. Make recommendations to the universities on improvements to
- 7 free speech policies and training; and
- 8        5. Prepare the Free Speech Survey following Section 3 of this
- 9 act.

10        SECTION 3.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3205.13 of Title 70, unless  
12 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13        The Oklahoma Free Speech Committee shall survey the state of  
14 free speech on public university campuses by interviewing all  
15 faculty, staff, and students every four years. The survey results  
16 shall be made publicly available on the website for the Oklahoma  
17 State Regents for Higher Education and a copy of the report shall be  
18 made available to the Governor, the Oklahoma Secretary of Education,  
19 the Speaker for the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the  
20 Oklahoma Senate Pro Tempore.

21        SECTION 4.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3205.14 of Title 70, unless  
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1 The Oklahoma Free Speech Committee shall develop a process of  
2 collecting complaints of free speech violations on public university  
3 campuses and advise complainants of their rights. Universities  
4 shall publish contact information on how to report free speech  
5 concerns to the Oklahoma Free Speech Committee on their website.

6 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3205.15 of Title 70, unless  
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 The Oklahoma Free Speech Committee shall either develop a First  
10 Amendment training or approve of an outside First Amendment training  
11 that shall be required for all college deans, heads of departments,  
12 and individuals responsible for establishing university free speech  
13 policies or handling free speech complaints. The Committee shall  
14 either revise or reapprove the training every two years. The  
15 training will be required every two years, or upon hire or promotion  
16 to one of the aforementioned roles.

17 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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