

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1827

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to tourism; creating the Fly In Oklahoma Act; providing short title; sunseting certain program; stating purpose of program; stating eligibility for grants; providing for administration through Office of the Lieutenant Governor; providing for collaboration with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department; setting maximum funds; stating use of grant funds; directing the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to promulgate rules; authorizing case studies of grant applications; authorizing repayment of certain grants; directing submission of certain applications for grants to the legislature by certain date; construing certain authority; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 2230.2 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

SECTION 2. NEW LAW

A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2230.3 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

C. The total maximum grant fund shall be One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). The funds shall be derived from legislative appropriations and other public and private sources of monies 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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