

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 1550

By: Green of the Senate

3 and

4 Moore of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
7 2021, Section 3230.1, which relates to creation of  
8 the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate  
9 Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Advisory Committee;  
10 changing name of Committee; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
11 Section 3230.2, which relates to membership of the  
12 Committee; adding member to Committee; amending 70  
13 O.S. 2021, Section 3230.3, which relates to duties  
14 and responsibilities of the Committee; modifying and  
15 adding duties and responsibilities; amending 70 O.S.  
16 2021, Section 3230.4, which relates to the  
17 Committee's submission of an annual report; allowing  
18 report to be submitted on a date determined by  
19 certain chair; updating statutory language; providing  
20 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3230.1, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 Section 3230.1. A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma  
~~Experimental~~ Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research  
(EPSCoR) Advisory Committee to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
Education. The Committee shall be advisory in nature and shall  
provide recommendations on EPSCoR programs to the State Regents,

1 which is the funding agency for the state share of matching  
2 requirements for EPSCoR initiatives.

3 B. The purpose of the Committee shall be, through a partnership  
4 of higher education institutions, independent research entities,  
5 industry, and state government, to enhance scientific and  
6 engineering research and development conducted at ~~universities~~  
7 higher education institutions in ~~the~~ this state and thereby to  
8 enhance the success of Oklahoma researchers in federal award  
9 competitions.

10 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3230.2, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 3230.2. A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
13 Education shall appoint members to the Oklahoma EPSCoR Advisory  
14 Committee that may include:

15 1. Representatives of the state's ~~universities and colleges~~  
16 higher education institutions;

17 2. Representatives of private research entities located in  
18 Oklahoma;

19 3. Representatives of private business;

20 4. Residents of ~~Oklahoma~~ this state whose contribution will  
21 enhance the goals of the Committee; ~~and~~

22 5. A representative of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement  
23 of Science and Technology; and

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1        6. A representative from the pre-kindergarten through twelfth  
2 grade education system.

3        B. The membership of the Committee shall also include:

4        1. One member of the Governor's staff to be appointed by the  
5 Governor;

6        2. One member of the ~~State~~ Senate to be appointed by the  
7 President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

8        3. One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed  
9 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10       C. The State Regents shall ensure that the membership of the  
11 Committee complies with requirements and guidelines of the  
12 appropriate federal agencies.

13       D. Members of the Committee shall not receive compensation for  
14 serving on the Committee, but may receive travel reimbursement as  
15 follows:

16       1. Legislative members of the Committee may be reimbursed for  
17 their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
18 duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
19 Statutes from the legislative body in which they serve;

20       2. State agency employees who are members of the Committee  
21 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance  
22 of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the  
23 State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

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1           3. All other Committee members may be reimbursed for travel  
2 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by the ~~Oklahoma~~  
3 State Regents ~~for Higher Education~~ in accordance with the State  
4 Travel Reimbursement Act.

5           SECTION 3.           AMENDATORY           70 O.S. 2021, Section 3230.3, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7           Section 3230.3. A. The Oklahoma EPSCoR Advisory Committee  
8 shall recommend to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
9 EPSCoR research projects requiring state matching funds and other  
10 research and systemic initiatives as requested by the State Regents.

11           B. The Committee shall have the duty and responsibility ~~of~~ to:

12           1. ~~Promoting~~ Promote cooperative research efforts among public  
13 and private ~~universities~~ higher education institutions in ~~Oklahoma~~  
14 this state;

15           2. ~~Promoting private sector involvement in university research~~  
16 ~~and encouraging technology transfer~~;

17           3. ~~Promoting human resource development in science and~~  
18 ~~engineering within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education~~;

19           4. ~~Selecting~~ Select specific research projects for submission  
20 in response to solicitations by EPSCoR Programs administered by  
21 federal agencies, which include but are not limited to the National  
22 Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Environmental  
23 Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of  
24 Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the

1 United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Institutes  
2 of Health, (NIH), including the NIH IDeA Program for which a limited  
3 number of projects may be submitted by ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this  
4 state;

5 ~~5. Appointing~~

6 3. Appoint the Oklahoma State EPSCoR Director; ~~and~~

7 4. Aid in the assessment of the total EPSCoR-related  
8 jurisdictional research ecosystem present in this state;

9 5. As needed, provide assistance or guidance in other  
10 activities that may relate to EPSCoR work in this state;

11 6. Collaborate with relevant entities to provide input into the  
12 development of a science and technology plan for this state; and

13 ~~Undertaking~~

14 7. Undertake other efforts as appropriate.

15 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3230.4, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 3230.4. The Oklahoma EPSCoR Advisory Committee shall  
18 submit ~~by July 1, 2001, and each July 1 thereafter,~~ an annual report  
19 of its activities for the preceding year to the Oklahoma State  
20 Regents for Higher Education by July 1, each year, or by another  
21 date as determined by the chair of the Committee.

22 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

23 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
24 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby

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.

3 Passed the Senate the 4th day of March, 2024.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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7 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
8 2024.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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