

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 1550

By: Green of the Senate

and

6 Moore of the House

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

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

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

22 Section 3230.1. A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma
23 ~~Experimental~~ Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
24 (EPSCoR) Advisory Committee to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher

1 Education. The Committee shall be advisory in nature and shall
2 provide recommendations on EPSCoR programs to the State Regents,
3 which is the funding agency for the state share of matching
4 requirements for EPSCoR initiatives.

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

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

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

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

19 2. Representatives of private research entities located in
20 Oklahoma;

21 3. Representatives of private business;

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

24

1 5. A representative of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement
2 of Science and Technology; and

3 6. A representative from the pre-kindergarten through twelfth
4 grade education system.

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

6 1. One member of the Governor's staff to be appointed by the
7 Governor;

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

10 3. One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed
11 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

22 2. State agency employees who are members of the Committee
23 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance
24

1 of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the
2 State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

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

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

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

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

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

17 2. ~~Promoting private sector involvement in university research~~
18 ~~and encouraging technology transfer~~;

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

21 4. ~~Selecting~~ Select specific research projects for submission
22 in response to solicitations by EPSCoR Programs administered by
23 federal agencies, which include but are not limited to the National
24 Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Environmental

1 Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of
2 Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the
3 United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Institutes
4 of Health~~7~~ (NIH), including the NIH IDeA Program for which a limited
5 number of projects may be submitted by ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this
6 state;

7 ~~5. Appointing~~

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

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

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

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

15 ~~Undertaking~~

16 7. Undertake other efforts as appropriate.

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

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

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

1 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER TECH,
dated 03/25/2024 - DO PASS.

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