

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 27, 2024

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1550

By: Green of the Senate

4 and

5 Moore of the House

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

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

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

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

1 provide recommendations on EPSCoR programs to the State Regents,
2 which is the funding agency for the state share of matching
3 requirements for EPSCoR initiatives.

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

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

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

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

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

20 3. Representatives of private business;

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

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

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

24

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 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
4 February 27, 2024 - DO PASS
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