

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 1627

By: Goodwin

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to appropriations; making  
8 appropriation to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce;  
9 stating amount; stating purposes; providing for  
10 implementation of program of compensation with  
11 respect to the events of May 31 through June 1, 1921,  
12 in the City of Tulsa to be designated the "Tulsa Race  
13 Massacre"; providing for collaboration between  
14 Oklahoma Department of Commerce and committee;  
15 providing for membership; creating Tulsa Race  
16 Massacre Victims' Compensation Revolving Fund;  
17 providing for sources of revenues; providing purposes  
18 of fund; providing for expenditures; prescribing  
19 procedures for expenditure; providing for  
20 noncodification; providing for codification;  
21 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
22 emergency.  
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma  
Department of Commerce from any monies not otherwise appropriated  
from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal  
year ending June 30, 2024, the sum of Three Hundred Million Dollars  
(\$300,000,000.00) to implement a program of reparations for damages  
to persons and property during the events of approximately May 31

1 through June 1, 1921, in the City of Tulsa which events shall be  
2 known as the "Tulsa Race Massacre".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
4 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

5 A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce, with the assistance of  
6 the Oklahoma Historical Society, nonprofit organizations, or any  
7 other state agency, board, commission, or department with  
8 information or resources that could be of assistance to the  
9 Department of Commerce, shall create and administer a program  
10 pursuant to which survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre and  
11 descendants of victims of the Tulsa Race Massacre may make  
12 application for and receive payments from the Tulsa Race Massacre  
13 Victims' Compensation Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 3  
14 of this act.

15 B. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall work in  
16 conjunction with and receive input from a committee to be composed  
17 of the following persons:

18 1. A member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives whose  
19 district includes some part or all of the Greenwood District in  
20 Tulsa;

21 2. A member of the Oklahoma State Senate whose district  
22 includes some part or all of the Greenwood District in Tulsa;

23 3. A member to be appointed by the Executive Director of the  
24 Oklahoma Department of Commerce; and

1 4. A member to be appointed by the Executive Director of the  
2 Oklahoma Historical Society.

3 C. The member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives or his  
4 or her designee shall convene meetings to select seven (7) other  
5 persons to constitute the committee for a total membership of eleven  
6 (11) persons.

7 D. The persons to be selected shall be capable, community-  
8 oriented persons representative of the historically and adversely  
9 affected areas of the City of Tulsa.

10 E. The persons selected may include, but shall not be limited  
11 to, historians, clergy, attorneys, advocates, accountants, and  
12 genealogists.

13 F. Nonprofit organizations or a state agency, board,  
14 commission, department, or other entity of state government with  
15 information or resources may provide assistance to the committee  
16 members.

17 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 25001 of Title 74, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
21 for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to be designated the "Tulsa  
22 Race Massacre Victims' Compensation Revolving Fund". The fund shall  
23 be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and  
24 shall consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Department of

1 Commerce from appropriations and such other sources as may be  
2 provided by law, including private donations. All monies accruing  
3 to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be  
4 budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for the  
5 purpose of making payments resulting from damage to persons and  
6 property during events of approximately May 31 through June 1, 1921,  
7 in the City of Tulsa which for purposes of this act shall be  
8 designated the "Tulsa Race Massacre". Expenditures from said fund  
9 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against  
10 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of  
11 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

12 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

13 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
14 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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