

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 1922

By: Sims

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; amending 68 O.S. 2021, Section 2397, which relates to the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act; modifying cap amount; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2021, Section 2397, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2397. A. Upon receiving notification from the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce that an approved company has entered into a tourism project agreement and is entitled to the inducements provided by the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act, the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall provide the approved company with forms and instructions as necessary to claim or receive or pass-through those inducements.

B. An approved company whose agreement provides that it shall expend approved costs of more than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars

1 (\$500,000.00) for a tourism attraction project but less than One  
2 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be entitled to a sales tax  
3 credit if the company certifies to the Tax Commission that it has  
4 expended at least the minimum amount in approved costs, and the  
5 Executive Director certifies that the approved company is in  
6 compliance with the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act. The Tax  
7 Commission shall then issue a tax credit memorandum to the approved  
8 company granting a sales tax credit in the amount of up to ten  
9 percent (10%) of the approved costs, but limited to the percent of  
10 the approved costs that will result in the project being revenue-  
11 neutral to the State of Oklahoma as determined by the Oklahoma  
12 Department of Commerce. Subsequent requests for credit for  
13 additional certified approved costs in excess of the minimum amount  
14 for each project as listed in this subsection but less than One  
15 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall result in a sales tax credit  
16 in the amount of up to ten percent (10%) of the approved costs, but  
17 limited to the percent of the approved costs that will result in the  
18 project being revenue-neutral to the State of Oklahoma as determined  
19 by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Sales tax credits allowed  
20 pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act  
21 shall not be transferable or assignable; provided that, with respect  
22 to a tourism attraction project that is an Entertainment District,  
23 the approved company can elect to pass-through all or a portion of  
24 the sales tax credit to one or more Entertainment District Tenant

1 Parties. The approved company and the Entertainment District Tenant  
2 Party shall jointly file a copy of the written credit pass-through  
3 agreement with the Oklahoma Tax Commission within thirty (30) days  
4 of the effective date of the agreement. Such filing of the  
5 agreement with the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall perfect such  
6 agreement. The written agreement shall contain the name, address  
7 and taxpayer identification number of the parties to the agreement,  
8 the amount of credit being passed-through, the month and year the  
9 credit was originally allowed to the approved company, the month and  
10 tax year or years for which the credit may be claimed, and a  
11 representation by the approved company that the approved company has  
12 neither claimed for its own behalf nor conveyed such credits to any  
13 other Entertainment District Tenant Party. The Tax Commission shall  
14 develop a standard form for use by an approved company and an  
15 Entertainment District Tenant Party demonstrating eligibility for  
16 the Entertainment District Tenant Party to utilize the sales tax  
17 credit. The Tax Commission shall develop a system to record and  
18 track the pass-through of the sales tax credit and certify the  
19 ownership of the sales tax credit and may promulgate rules to permit  
20 verification of the validity and timeliness of a sales tax credit  
21 claimed upon a sales tax return pursuant to this subsection but  
22 shall not promulgate any rules which unduly restrict or hinder the  
23 pass-through of such sales tax credit to an Entertainment District  
24 Tenant Party.

1       An approved company whose agreement provides that it shall  
2       expend approved costs in excess of One Million Dollars  
3       (\$1,000,000.00) shall be entitled to a sales tax credit if the  
4       company certifies to the Tax Commission that it has expended at  
5       least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in approved costs and the  
6       Executive Director certifies that the approved company is in  
7       compliance with the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act. The Tax  
8       Commission shall then issue a tax credit memorandum to the approved  
9       company granting a sales tax credit in the amount of up to twenty-  
10      five percent (25%) of the approved costs, but limited to the percent  
11      of the approved costs that will result in the project being revenue-  
12      neutral to the State of Oklahoma as determined by the Oklahoma  
13      Department of Commerce. The credit on all subsequent additional  
14      certified approved costs shall be in the amount of up to twenty-five  
15      percent (25%) of the costs, but limited to the percent of the  
16      approved costs that will result in the project being revenue-neutral  
17      to the State of Oklahoma as determined by the Oklahoma Department of  
18      Commerce. For a tourism attraction project that is an Entertainment  
19      District, an approved company may elect to receive an incentive  
20      payment based on sales tax collections of Entertainment District  
21      Tenant Parties rather than a sales tax credit. The incentive  
22      payment shall be in the amount of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of  
23      the approved costs but limited to the percent of the approved costs  
24      that will result in the project being revenue-neutral to the State

1 of Oklahoma as determined by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce;  
2 provided that, (A) in no event shall the incentive payments exceed  
3 the increased state sales tax liability of the approved company and  
4 the Entertainment District Tenant Parties that is actually received  
5 by the Tax Commission, and (B) the approved company shall be  
6 entitled to receive only ten percent (10%) of the incentive payment  
7 amount during each calendar year. The Tax Commission shall issue an  
8 incentive payment memorandum to the approved company granting a  
9 right to receive an incentive payment from the Tax Commission in the  
10 amount of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the approved costs but  
11 limited to the percent of the approved costs that will result in the  
12 project being revenue-neutral to the State of Oklahoma as determined  
13 by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. As soon as practicable  
14 after the end of each calendar year during the term of the  
15 agreement, the approved company shall file a claim for the incentive  
16 payment with the Tax Commission, and the Tax Commission shall be  
17 responsible for ensuring that the amount of the incentive payment  
18 claimed does not exceed the increased state sales tax liability of  
19 the approved company and the Entertainment District Tenant Parties  
20 that has been actually received by the Tax Commission, which may  
21 include accessing the Oklahoma sales tax returns of the  
22 Entertainment District Tenant Parties as permitted by this section.  
23  
24

1 The cumulative inducements provided pursuant to the Oklahoma  
2 Tourism Development Act shall not exceed ~~Fifteen Million Dollars~~  
3 ~~(\$15,000,000.00)~~ Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) per year.

4 The Tax Commission shall require proof of expenditures prior to  
5 issuing a tax credit memorandum or incentive payment memorandum to  
6 the approved company which may be satisfied by a report from an  
7 independent certified public accountant. Additional credit  
8 memoranda or incentive memoranda may be issued as the approved  
9 company certifies additional expenditures of approved costs.

10 No tax credit memorandum or incentive payment memorandum shall  
11 be issued for any approved costs expended after the expiration of  
12 three (3) years from the date the agreement was signed by the  
13 Executive Director and the approved company. However, the Executive  
14 Director, with the advice and consent of the Tax Commission, may  
15 authorize inducements for approved costs expended up to five (5)  
16 years from the date the agreement was signed if the Executive  
17 Director determines that the failure to complete the tourism  
18 attraction project within three (3) years resulted from:

19 1. Unanticipated and unavoidable delay in the construction of  
20 the tourism attraction;

21 2. An original completion date for the tourism attraction, as  
22 originally planned, which will be more than three (3) years from the  
23 date construction began; or  
24

1        3. A change in business ownership or business structure  
2 resulting from a merger or acquisition.

3        C. A sales tax credit allowed pursuant to the provisions of  
4 this section may be used to offset a portion of the reported state  
5 sales tax liability of the approved company or an Entertainment  
6 District Tenant Party, if applicable, for all sales tax reporting  
7 periods following the issuance of the credit memorandum subject to  
8 the following limitations:

9        1. Only increased state sales tax liability may be offset by  
10 the issued credit;

11        2. An approved company whose agreement provides that it shall  
12 expend approved costs in excess of One Million Dollars  
13 (\$1,000,000.00) or an Entertainment District Party, if applicable,  
14 shall be entitled to use only ten percent (10%) of the amount of  
15 each issued credit to offset increased state sales tax liability  
16 during each calendar year, plus the amount of any unused credit  
17 carried forward from a prior calendar year, and an approved company  
18 whose agreement provides that it shall expend approved costs of more  
19 than the minimum amount for each project as listed in this  
20 subsection but less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall  
21 be entitled to use only twenty percent (20%) of the amount of each  
22 issued credit to offset increased state sales tax liability during  
23 each calendar year, plus the amount of any unused credit carried  
24 forward from a prior calendar year; and

1        3. All issued credit memoranda or incentive payment memorandum  
2 shall expire at the end of the month following the expiration of the  
3 agreement as provided in Section 2396 of this title.

4        The approved company or an Entertainment District Tenant Party,  
5 if applicable, shall have no obligation to refund or otherwise  
6 return any amount of this inducement to the person from whom the  
7 sales tax was collected.

8        D. The Tax Commission shall promulgate rules as are necessary  
9 for the proper administration of the Oklahoma Tourism Development  
10 Act. The Tax Commission may also develop forms and instructions as  
11 necessary for an approved company or Entertainment District Tenant  
12 Party, if applicable, to claim or receive or pass-through the  
13 inducements provided by the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act.

14        E. The Tax Commission shall have the authority to obtain any  
15 information necessary from or regarding the approved company or an  
16 Entertainment District Tenant Party, if applicable, and the  
17 Executive Director to verify that approved companies or an  
18 Entertainment District Tenant Party, if applicable, have received  
19 the proper amounts of inducements as authorized by the Oklahoma  
20 Tourism Development Act. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall demand  
21 the repayment of any inducements taken or received in excess of the  
22 inducements allowed by this act.

23        F. No sales tax credit or incentive payment right authorized by  
24 this section shall be granted on or after January 1, 2026.



1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, an approved company that has entered  
2 into a tourism attraction project agreement with the Oklahoma  
3 Department of Commerce pursuant to Section 2396 of this title prior  
4 to January 1, 2026, shall continue to be entitled to claim or  
5 receive any inducements authorized by this section as contemplated  
6 by the tourism project agreement.

7 G. All currently approved tourism project agreements executed  
8 by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department are hereby  
9 transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce upon the  
10 effective date of this act.

11 H. On the effective date of this act, all administrative rules  
12 promulgated by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department  
13 regarding the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act shall be transferred  
14 to and become a part of the administrative rules of the Oklahoma  
15 Department of Commerce. The Office of Administrative Rules in the  
16 Office of the Secretary of State shall provide adequate notice in  
17 the Oklahoma Register of the transferred rules and shall place the  
18 transferred rules under the Administrative Code section of the  
19 Oklahoma Department of Commerce. On the effective date of this act,  
20 any amendment, repeal or addition to the transferred rules shall be  
21 under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, who  
22 shall have the authority to enact rules in order to carry out the  
23 provisions of the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

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