

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1304

By: Standridge

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; creating the
8 Oklahoma Workforce Education Revolving Fund;
9 specifying source of fund; providing for
10 expenditures; providing purpose of fund; directing
11 the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to award funds to
12 certain eligible institutions of higher education on
13 certain basis; providing purpose of funds; providing
14 eligibility criteria; allowing promulgation of rules;
15 providing for codification; providing an effective
16 date; and declaring an emergency.

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1 the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted
2 and expended by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for the purpose
3 provided for in this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be
4 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
5 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
6 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

7 B. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall award funds from
8 the Oklahoma Workforce Education Revolving Fund created in
9 subsection A of this section to eligible institutions of higher
10 education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education on a
11 pro rata basis according to the number of students enrolled in the
12 institution of higher education. The funds shall be used to provide
13 tuition assistance to students who enroll in or to expand
14 instructional course offerings in fields of study related to the
15 critical occupation areas identified by the Department.

16 C. To be eligible for funds pursuant to this section, an
17 institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of
18 Higher Education shall apply to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce
19 in the manner and on a form prescribed by the Department. The
20 application form shall include an attestation that the institution
21 of higher education:

22 1. Has not, except as required by federal law:

23 a. established or maintained a diversity, equity, and
24 inclusion office,

- 1 b. hired or assigned an employee of the institution or
2 contracted with a third party to perform the duties of
3 a diversity, equity, and inclusion office,
4 c. compelled, required, induced, or solicited any person
5 to provide a diversity, equity, and inclusion
6 statement or given preferential consideration to any
7 person based on the provision of a diversity, equity,
8 and inclusion statement,
9 d. given preference on the basis of race, sex, color,
10 ethnicity, or national origin to an applicant for
11 admission, an applicant for employment, an employee,
12 or a participant in any function of the institution,
13 or
14 e. required as a condition of enrolling at the
15 institution or performing any institution function any
16 person to participate in diversity, equity, and
17 inclusion training, which:
18 (1) includes a training, program, or activity
19 designed or implemented in reference to race,
20 color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual
21 orientation, and
22 (2) does not include a training, program, or activity
23 developed by an attorney and approved in writing
24 by the institution's general counsel and the

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for
the sole purpose of ensuring compliance with any
applicable court order or state or federal law;
and

2. Has adopted policies and procedures for appropriately
disciplining, including by termination, an employee or contractor of
the institution who engages in conduct in violation of paragraph 1
of this subsection.

D. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce may promulgate rules to
implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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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