

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT  
TO  
2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 701 By: Haste and Gillespie of the  
Senate  
3  
4 and  
5 Hasenbeck and Marti of the  
House  
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9 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
10 2021, Section 4668, which relates to Northeastern  
11 State University; modifying location of branch;  
providing an effective date; and declaring an  
emergency.

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15 AUTHORS: Add the following House Coauthors: Woolley, Banning, and  
16 Ford

17 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill  
18 and insert:

19  
20 "An Act relating to higher education; authorizing the  
approval of functional exceptions; defining term;  
21 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3213.1, which relates  
to the University Center at Ponca City; removing  
22 certain limitation; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section  
3405.1, which relates to classes and programs offered  
23 to the people of Muskogee; expanding classes and  
course offerings; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section  
4662, which relates to Rogers University in Tulsa;  
24 expanding undergraduate course offerings; amending 70

1 O.S. 2021, Section 4667, which relates to Langston  
2 University in Tulsa; expanding course offerings;  
3 removing limitation on Oklahoma State University-  
4 Tulsa course offerings; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
5 Section 4668, which relates to Northeastern State  
6 University in Broken Arrow; expanding course  
7 offerings; removing limitation on Oklahoma State  
8 University-Tulsa course offerings; repealing 70 O.S.  
9 2021, Section 4665, which relates to courses at  
10 Oklahoma State University-Tulsa not to duplicate  
11 Tulsa Community College courses; providing for  
12 noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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

10 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
11 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

12 The State Regents for Higher Education may approve functional  
13 exceptions. "Functional exception" means an expansion or exception  
14 to assigned institutional function or mission to permit an  
15 institution of higher education within The State System of Higher  
16 Education to offer courses or degree programs outside the  
17 institution's assigned function or mission to meet unmet workforce  
18 needs.

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3213.1, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 3213.1. A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
22 Education shall make educational program resources at institutions  
23 in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education available to the  
24

1 people in the Ponca City area. This program shall be known as the  
2 University Center at Ponca City.

3 B. The State Regents shall draw upon the educational programs  
4 of institutions best suited to provide the kind of educational  
5 programs needed and shall, in pursuance of Article XIII-A of the  
6 Oklahoma Constitution ~~of Oklahoma~~ and appropriate statutes, set the  
7 standards of education as they relate to the programs operated to  
8 assure that credits earned by students will be fully accepted at  
9 institutions of higher education to which the students may transfer  
10 the credit to apply toward an educational study objective. ~~Northern~~  
11 ~~Oklahoma College shall have exclusive authority to offer all lower~~  
12 ~~division courses and programs at the University Center at Ponca City~~  
13 ~~as listed in the current college catalog of Northern Oklahoma~~  
14 ~~College.~~

15 C. The State Regents may establish appropriate funds and  
16 accounts, including a revolving fund, in the ~~Office of State Finance~~  
17 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for servicing the  
18 fiscal operations of the University Center at Ponca City. The funds  
19 and accounts shall be subject to the direct supervision, management,  
20 and control of the board of trustees created by subsection D of this  
21 section. The people locally shall provide suitable physical plant  
22 accommodations for the University Center at Ponca City.

23 D. There is hereby created a board of nine (9) trustees to be  
24 appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate to

1 serve as the administrative agency for the University Center at  
2 Ponca City. The board shall be a body corporate and shall adopt and  
3 use an official seal. The board so created shall have the authority  
4 to submit a budget annually to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
5 Education, administer monies budgeted by the State Regents, provide  
6 educational facilities, recommend courses and programs to be offered  
7 by participating institutions, select a chief executive officer  
8 whose duties include the general coordination of approved programs  
9 and services and the selection of other appropriate nonteaching  
10 personnel. The board of trustees is authorized to expend all monies  
11 allocated to the University Center at Ponca City as may be necessary  
12 to perform the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the board by  
13 this section. For purposes of acquiring and taking title to real  
14 and personal property from sources other than state appropriations,  
15 the board is authorized to enter into contracts and to adopt rules  
16 and regulations pertaining to such actions. The initial nine (9)  
17 members shall serve their terms for the period to which originally  
18 appointed, in numbered positions having dates of expiration  
19 identical to the dates of expiration of the original appointments:

20 Position No. 1. The term of office of one member shall expire  
21 on June 30, 2013, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

22 Position No. 2. The term of office of one member shall expire  
23 on June 30, 2014, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

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1       Position No. 3. The term of office of one member shall expire  
2 on June 30, 2015, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

3       Position No. 4. The term of office of one member shall expire  
4 on June 30, 2016, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

5       Position No. 5. The term of office of one member shall expire  
6 on June 30, 2017, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

7       Position No. 6. The term of office of one member shall expire  
8 on June 30, 2018, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

9       Position No. 7. The term of office of one member shall expire  
10 on June 30, 2019, and each nine (9) years thereafter;

11       Position No. 8. The term of office of one member shall expire  
12 on June 30, 2020, and each nine (9) years thereafter; and

13       Position No. 9. The term of office of one member shall expire  
14 on June 30, 2021, and each nine (9) years thereafter.

15       The board shall organize and elect a chair, vice-chair, and  
16 secretary annually.

17       E. The board of trustees may establish and maintain plans for  
18 tenure and retirement of its employees and for payment of deferred  
19 compensation of employees and may provide hospital and medical  
20 benefits, accident, health and life insurance and annuity contracts  
21 for employees and pay for all or part of the cost with funds  
22 available for payment of its operating expenses.

23       F. The board may establish with the State Treasurer any  
24 accounts as are necessary to operate retirement, deferred

1 compensation or benefits plans for its employees. The accounts  
2 shall be revolving funds not subject to fiscal year limitations.  
3 Funds deposited in the accounts may be invested in any of the types  
4 of instruments in which the State Treasurer is authorized by law to  
5 invest.

6 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3405.1, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 3405.1. A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
9 Education shall make resident college credit courses and programs  
10 available to the people of Muskogee.

11 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
12 provide ~~lower-division~~ classes and programs through a branch of  
13 Connors State College as the State Regents shall determine are  
14 appropriate, which shall be established and located in Muskogee.  
15 The branch campus of Connors State College shall be governed by the  
16 Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical  
17 Colleges and administered through Connors State College.

18 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
19 provide ~~upper-division~~ classes and programs ~~and graduate classes at~~  
20 ~~the Masters level~~ through a branch of Northeastern State University  
21 as the State Regents shall determine are appropriate, which shall be  
22 established and located at Muskogee. The branch campus of  
23 Northeastern State University shall be governed by the Board of  
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1 Regents of Oklahoma Colleges and administered through Northeastern  
2 State University.

3 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4662, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 4662. A. On January 1, 1999, there shall be  
6 established as a successor to Rogers University in Tulsa a branch  
7 institution of Oklahoma State University which shall be known as  
8 ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and  
9 shall offer ~~upper division~~ undergraduate courses and baccalaureate  
10 degree programs as the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education  
11 shall determine are appropriate. No later than July 1, 2001, the  
12 Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical  
13 Colleges, in cooperation with the ~~Oklahoma State Regents for Higher~~  
14 ~~Education~~, shall have developed and implemented programs leading to  
15 baccalaureate degrees that can be earned at ~~Oklahoma State~~  
16 ~~University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa.

17 B. Beginning with the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned  
18 at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa  
19 shall be designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for  
20 Higher Education acting through Oklahoma State University; provided  
21 that dual degree programs may be offered at ~~Oklahoma State~~  
22 ~~University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and dual degrees  
23 may be awarded through Oklahoma State University and other  
24 institutions.

1       SECTION 5.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2021, Section 4667, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       Section 4667. A. On July 1, 2001, there shall be established a  
4 branch of Langston University within the Tulsa metropolitan area  
5 consistent with the statewide plan for Langston University as  
6 provided in Section ~~6~~ 4666 of this ~~act~~ title. Langston University  
7 shall continue to meet the missions and programs of the Langston  
8 Urban Center in Tulsa. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
9 Education are authorized to make ~~upper division~~ undergraduate and  
10 graduate course offerings at the Langston University Branch in Tulsa  
11 available as the State Regents shall determine are appropriate.  
12 Undergraduate degree programs offered through ~~Oklahoma State~~  
13 ~~University/Tulsa shall not duplicate those undergraduate degree~~  
14 ~~programs offered by Langston University Branch in Tulsa, as~~  
15 ~~determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and~~  
16 Oklahoma State University-Tulsa shall be consistent with and in  
17 furthering implementation of the statewide plan for Langston  
18 University as developed by the State Regents pursuant to Section ~~6~~  
19 4666 of this ~~act~~ title and filed with the Office for Civil Rights,  
20 United States Department of Education.

21       B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall fund  
22 Langston University at a level not less than its fiscal year 1998  
23 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held harmless  
24 from reductions in succeeding years. The Oklahoma State Regents for



1 Higher Education shall allocate funds to Langston University  
2 sufficient to fund full time faculty in Tulsa at a level equal to  
3 seventy percent (70%) of its faculty level that existed in Tulsa in  
4 fiscal year 1998 and adequate building and classroom space which  
5 were funded in fiscal year 1998 in order to carry out all functions  
6 in Tulsa. The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and  
7 Mechanical Colleges shall allocate space for Langston University in  
8 Tulsa.

9 C. It is the intent of the Legislature that Langston University  
10 be funded at a level consistent with the average allocation and  
11 allotment of the institutions in the regional funding tier as  
12 established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

13 D. Beginning with the ~~2001 - 2002~~ 2001-2002 academic year,  
14 degrees earned at Langston University Branch in Tulsa shall be  
15 designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
16 Education acting through Langston University.

17 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4668, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 4668. A. On July 1, 2001, there may be established a  
20 branch of Northeastern State University within the Tulsa  
21 metropolitan area. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
22 are authorized to make ~~upper-division~~ undergraduate and graduate  
23 course offerings at the Northeastern State University branch in  
24 Broken Arrow available as the State Regents shall determine are

1 appropriate. ~~Undergraduate degree programs offered through Oklahoma~~  
2 ~~State University/Tulsa shall not duplicate those undergraduate~~  
3 ~~degree programs offered by Northeastern State University in Tulsa,~~  
4 ~~as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.~~

5 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall fund  
6 Northeastern State University at a level not less than its fiscal  
7 year 1998 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held  
8 harmless from reductions in succeeding years.

9 C. It is the intent of the Legislature that Northeastern State  
10 University be funded at a level consistent with the average  
11 allocation and allotment of the institutions in the regional funding  
12 tier as established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
13 Education.

14 D. Beginning with the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned  
15 at the Northeastern State University ~~Branch~~ branch in ~~Tulsa~~ Broken  
16 Arrow shall be designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents  
17 for Higher Education acting through Northeastern State University.

18 SECTION 7. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4665, is  
19 hereby repealed.

20 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025."  
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of May, 2025.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives  
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6 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate  
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1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 701

By: Haste and Gillespie of the  
Senate

3 and

4 Hasenbeck and Marti of the  
5 House

6  
7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
8 2021, Section 4668, which relates to Northeastern  
9 State University; modifying location of branch;  
providing an effective date; and declaring an  
emergency.

10  
11  
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4668, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 4668. On July 1, 2001, there may be established a  
16 branch of Northeastern State University within the ~~Tulsa~~  
17 ~~metropolitan area~~ City of Broken Arrow. The Oklahoma State Regents  
18 for Higher Education are authorized to make lower division and upper  
19 division undergraduate and graduate course offerings at the  
20 Northeastern State University branch in Broken Arrow available as  
21 the State Regents shall determine are appropriate. Undergraduate  
22 degree programs offered through Oklahoma State University/Tulsa  
23 shall not duplicate those undergraduate degree programs offered by  
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1 Northeastern State University in ~~Tulsa~~ Broken Arrow, as determined  
2 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

3 The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall fund  
4 Northeastern State University at a level not less than its fiscal  
5 year 1998 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held  
6 harmless from reductions in succeeding years.

7 It is the intent of the Legislature that Northeastern State  
8 University in Broken Arrow be funded at a level consistent with the  
9 average allocation and allotment of the institutions in the regional  
10 funding tier as established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
11 Education.

12 Beginning with the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned at  
13 Northeastern State University ~~Branch~~ branch in ~~Tulsa~~ Broken Arrow  
14 shall be designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for  
15 Higher Education acting through Northeastern State University.

16 SECTION 10. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

17 SECTION 11. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
18 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
19 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
20 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

1 Passed the Senate the 11th day of March, 2025.

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3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2025.

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8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the House  
10 of Representatives