

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 2854

By: Hasenbeck of the House

and

Seifried of the Senate

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to higher education; providing legislative intent; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 3213.1, 3405.1, 4662, 4665, 4667, and 4668, which relate to course offerings at certain institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; authorizing additional course offerings at certain institutions beginning in certain academic year; allowing duplication of certain course offerings beginning in certain academic year; updating statutory references; updating statutory language; providing for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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

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

1 The Legislature encourages the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
2 Education to exercise all powers necessary or convenient to
3 accomplish the purposes of Article XIII-A of the Oklahoma
4 Constitution and recommends that the State Regents allow up to one
5 change of function for each institution within The Oklahoma State
6 System of Higher Education. Exceptions to functions and associated
7 degree programs may also be considered for unique and specific
8 purposes, such as addressing unmet workforce needs that cannot be
9 met through existing programs or collaboration. All such requests
10 shall be approved by the institution's governing board and meet the
11 criteria outlined in the State Regents' policies and procedures.

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

14 Section 3213.1. A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
15 Education shall make educational program resources at institutions
16 in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education available to the
17 people in the Ponca City area. This program shall be known as the
18 University Center at Ponca City.

19 B. The State Regents shall draw upon the educational programs
20 of institutions best suited to provide the kind of educational
21 programs needed and shall, in pursuance of Article XIII-A of the
22 Oklahoma Constitution ~~of Oklahoma~~ and appropriate statutes, set the
23 standards of education as they relate to the programs operated to
24 assure that credits earned by students will be fully accepted at

1 institutions of higher education to which the students may transfer
2 the credit to apply toward an educational study objective. Northern
3 Oklahoma College shall have exclusive authority to offer all lower
4 division courses and programs at the University Center at Ponca City
5 as listed in the current college catalog of Northern Oklahoma
6 College. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, Northern
7 Oklahoma College may offer, but shall not have exclusive authority
8 to offer, lower division courses and programs at the University
9 Center at Ponca City.

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

18 D. There is hereby created a board of nine (9) trustees to be
19 appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate to
20 serve as the administrative agency for the University Center at
21 Ponca City. The board shall be a body corporate and shall adopt and
22 use an official seal. The board so created shall have the authority
23 to submit a budget annually to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
24 Education, administer monies budgeted by the State Regents, provide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 The board shall organize and elect a chair, ~~vice-chair~~ vice
10 chair, and secretary annually.

11 E. The board of trustees may establish and maintain plans for
12 tenure and retirement of its employees and for payment of deferred
13 compensation of employees and may provide hospital and medical
14 benefits, accident, health and life insurance, and annuity contracts
15 for employees and pay for all or part of the cost with funds
16 available for payment of its operating expenses.

17 F. The board may establish with the State Treasurer any
18 accounts as are necessary to operate retirement, deferred
19 compensation, or benefits plans for its employees. The accounts
20 shall be revolving funds not subject to fiscal year limitations.
21 Funds deposited in the accounts may be invested in any of the types
22 of instruments in which the State Treasurer is authorized by law to
23 invest.

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

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

6 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
7 provide lower division classes and programs through a branch of
8 Connors State College, which shall be established and located in
9 Muskogee. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the State
10 Regents may provide lower and upper division classes and programs
11 through a branch of Connors State College, which shall be
12 established and located in Muskogee. The branch campus of Connors
13 State College shall be governed by the Board of Regents for the
14 Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and administered
15 through Connors State College.

16 C. The ~~Oklahoma~~ State Regents ~~for Higher Education~~ shall
17 provide upper division classes and programs and graduate classes at
18 the Masters level through a branch of Northeastern State University,
19 which shall be established and located at Muskogee. Beginning with
20 the 2026-2027 academic year, the State Regents may provide lower and
21 upper division classes and programs and graduate classes at the
22 Masters level through a branch of Northeastern State University,
23 which shall be located at Muskogee. The branch campus of
24 Northeastern State University shall be governed by the Board of

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. On January 1, 1999, there shall be established as
6 a successor to Rogers University in Tulsa a branch institution of
7 Oklahoma State University which shall be known as ~~Oklahoma State~~
8 ~~University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and shall offer
9 upper division undergraduate courses and baccalaureate degree
10 programs. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, Oklahoma
11 State University-Tulsa may offer lower and upper division
12 undergraduate courses and baccalaureate degree programs. No later
13 than July 1, 2001, the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma
14 Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in cooperation with the
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, shall have developed
16 and implemented programs leading to baccalaureate degrees that can
17 be earned at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State
18 University-Tulsa. Beginning with the ~~2001—2002~~ 2001-2002 academic
19 year, degrees earned at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma
20 State University-Tulsa shall be designated as awarded by the
21 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education acting through Oklahoma
22 State University; provided, that dual degree programs may be offered
23 at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa
24

1 and dual degrees may be awarded through Oklahoma State University
2 and other institutions.

3 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4665, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 4665. ~~Courses~~ A. Except as provided for in subsection
6 B of this section, courses offered at the undergraduate level
7 through ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-
8 Tulsa shall not duplicate those offered by Tulsa Community College.

9 B. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, courses offered
10 at the undergraduate level through Oklahoma State University-Tulsa
11 may duplicate those offered by Tulsa Community College, as
12 determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

13 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4667, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 4667. On July 1, 2001, there shall be established a
16 branch of Langston University within the Tulsa metropolitan area
17 consistent with the statewide plan for Langston University as
18 provided in ~~Section 6 of this act~~ Section 4666 of this title.

19 Langston University shall continue to meet the missions and programs
20 of the Langston Urban Center in Tulsa. The Oklahoma State Regents
21 for Higher Education are authorized to make upper division
22 undergraduate and graduate course offerings at the Langston
23 University ~~Branch~~ branch in Tulsa available as the State Regents
24 shall determine are appropriate. Beginning with the 2026-2027

1 academic year, the State Regents are authorized to make lower and
2 upper division undergraduate and graduate course offerings at the
3 Langston University branch in Tulsa available as the State Regents
4 shall determine are appropriate. Undergraduate degree programs
5 offered through ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State
6 University-Tulsa shall not duplicate those undergraduate degree
7 programs offered by the Langston University ~~Branch~~ branch in Tulsa,
8 as determined by the ~~Oklahoma~~ State Regents ~~for Higher Education,~~
9 and shall be consistent with and in furthering implementation of the
10 statewide plan for Langston University as developed by the State
11 Regents pursuant to ~~Section 6 of this act~~ Section 4666 of this title
12 and filed with the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department
13 of Education. Provided, however, that beginning with the 2026-2027
14 academic year, undergraduate degree programs offered through
15 Oklahoma State University-Tulsa may duplicate those undergraduate
16 degree programs offered by the Langston University branch in Tulsa,
17 as determined by the State Regents.

18 The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall fund
19 Langston University at a level not less than its fiscal year 1998
20 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held harmless
21 from reductions in succeeding years. The ~~Oklahoma~~ State Regents ~~for~~
22 ~~Higher Education~~ shall allocate funds to Langston University
23 sufficient to fund ~~full-time~~ full-time faculty in Tulsa at a level
24 equal to seventy percent (70%) of its faculty level that existed in

1 Tulsa in fiscal year 1998 and adequate building and classroom space
2 which were funded in fiscal year 1998 in order to carry out all
3 functions in Tulsa. The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma
4 Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges shall allocate space for
5 Langston University in Tulsa.

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

10 Beginning with the ~~2001—2002~~ 2001-2002 academic year, degrees
11 earned at the Langston University ~~Branch~~ branch in Tulsa shall be
12 designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
13 Education acting through Langston University.

14 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4668, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 4668. On July 1, 2001, there may be established a
17 branch of Northeastern State University within the Tulsa
18 metropolitan area. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
19 are authorized to make upper division undergraduate and graduate
20 course offerings at the Northeastern State University branch in
21 Broken Arrow available as the State Regents shall determine are
22 appropriate. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the State
23 Regents are authorized to make lower and upper division
24 undergraduate and graduate course offerings at the Northeastern

1 State University branch in Broken Arrow available as the State
2 Regents shall determine are appropriate. Undergraduate degree
3 programs offered through ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma
4 State University-Tulsa shall not duplicate those undergraduate
5 degree programs offered by Northeastern State University in Tulsa,
6 as determined by the ~~Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education~~.
7 Provided, however, that beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year,
8 undergraduate degree programs offered through Oklahoma State
9 University-Tulsa may duplicate those undergraduate degree programs
10 offered by Northeastern State University in Tulsa, as determined by
11 the State Regents.

12 The ~~Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education~~ shall fund
13 Northeastern State University at a level not less than its fiscal
14 year 1998 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held
15 harmless from reductions in succeeding years.

16 It is the intent of the Legislature that Northeastern State
17 University in Broken Arrow be funded at a level consistent with the
18 average allocation and allotment of the institutions in the regional
19 funding tier as established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
20 Education.

21 Beginning with the ~~2001—2002~~ 2001-2002 academic year, degrees
22 earned at the Northeastern State University ~~Branch~~ branch in ~~Tulsa~~
23 Broken Arrow shall be designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State
24

1 Regents for Higher Education acting through Northeastern State
2 University.

3 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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