

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1621

By: Hall

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to public finance; enacting the State Department of Education Spending Transparency Act; defining terms; requiring Internet-based portal; prescribing required content related to expenditures by state government; imposing duties on governmental entities; authorizing State Treasurer to include certain information; providing for annual agreements; prohibiting release of confidential information; requiring standards for reporting; providing for administrative rules; prescribing requirements for website displays; providing for codification; 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 to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8201 of Title 62, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "State Department of Education Spending Transparency Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8202 of Title 62, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 This act will empower taxpayers with better information about
5 how their state spends taxpayer funds. The purpose of this act is
6 to ensure that the public can act on information about where
7 education taxpayer funds are spent in order to ensure that
8 government is as efficient and effective as possible.

9 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8203 of Title 62, unless there
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 As used in this act, "Submitting Party" means the State
13 Department of Education.

14 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8204 of Title 62, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 No later than the effective date of this act, the State
18 Treasurer shall establish an Internet-based portal freely available
19 to the public which details information about expenditures made by
20 the Submitting Party in each fiscal year that commences after the
21 effective date of this section. The features of the database shall
22 include at least:

23 1. A detailed ledger of all expenditures made in a fiscal year
24 by the Submitting Party, including, for each:

- a. the amount of the expenditure,
- b. the date the expenditure was paid,
- c. the name of the individual or entity to which the expenditure was paid,
- d. if the expenditure is a payment to an employee, the employee's job title or other information that identifies their role within the organization, and
- e. each transaction from a state agency shall be assigned an expenditure category defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

2. The ability to search or browse all individual expenditures in each fiscal year;

3. The ability to aggregate data and where appropriate, through interactive software, generate totals, averages, and other summary statistics broken down by year, Submitting Party, spending categories described in paragraph 1 of this section and other criteria that may be useful to the public;

4. The ability to easily download all or a subset of expenditure data in a format that is widely usable and useful to members of the public; and

5. The ability to browse and search anonymized annual salary and benefit information for all employees of the Submitting Party.

1 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8205 of Title 62, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Submitting Party shall assist in the development,
5 establishment, operation, storage, hosting, and support of the
6 database. The Submitting Party shall submit data to the State
7 Treasurer in a manner and on a schedule prescribed by the State
8 Treasurer.

9 B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the
10 State Treasurer from including any information in the database that
11 is not required to be included under this section and that is
12 available to the public.

13 C. The State Treasurer shall enter into an annual agreement
14 with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services and other
15 appropriate agencies to define data storage, privacy and security,
16 data handling, user interface requirements, and other provisions
17 considered necessary to ensure the proper maintenance and operation
18 of the database.

19 D. The State Treasurer shall ensure that the database does not
20 include any confidential information, information that is not
21 eligible for release under the Oklahoma Open Records Act, or the
22 names, Social Security numbers, or any other personally identifiable
23 information about employees of Submitting Parties or other
24 individuals.

1 E. The State Treasurer shall, on an ongoing basis, develop
2 standardized reporting procedures and methodologies and may develop
3 secure application programming interfaces so that data can be
4 reported with minimal administrative burden on the State Treasurer,
5 the Submitting Party, and others.

6 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8206 of Title 62, unless there
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 The State Treasurer shall promulgate all necessary rules for the
10 administration of this act within the time prescribed for permanent
11 rule adoption as provided by law.

12 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8207 of Title 62, unless there
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 The database shall be hosted and featured prominently on the
16 State Treasurer's website. The Submitting Party shall display on
17 its website a prominent Internet link to a page within the database
18 that displays a summary of the expenditures from the Submitting
19 Party in the most recent fiscal year.

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