

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 POLICY COMMITTEE  
4 RECOMMENDATION

5 FOR

6 HOUSE BILL NO. 3128

By: West (Kevin)

7 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

8 An Act relating to labor; enacting the Actionable  
9 Response for Industry Skills and Excellence in  
10 Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK); describing  
11 legislative intent and purpose; defining terms;  
12 creating guidelines for Task Force members; creating  
13 guidelines for appointed members; describing duties;  
14 requiring reports; describing report deadlines;  
15 providing guidelines for compensation and  
16 reimbursement; requiring staffing and support;  
17 establishing sunset date; providing for  
18 noncodification; providing for codification; and  
19 providing an effective date.

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

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

23 A. The Legislature finds that Oklahoma's long-term economic  
24 growth, business competitiveness, and workforce capacity depend upon  
strategic coordination between employers, education providers,  
workforce systems, and state agencies.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature to:

1. Identify barriers to workforce entry and participation;

- 1        2. Strengthen workforce pipelines in key industries;
- 2        3. Align education and training systems with employer needs;
- 3        4. Support apprenticeships, technical training, and career
- 4 development;
- 5        5. Enhance Oklahoma's economic competitiveness through a
- 6 modernized, responsive workforce system; and
- 7        6. Ensure recommendations are industry-driven, data-informed,
- 8 and actionable.

9        SECTION 2.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 651 of Title 40, unless there is  
11 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12        A. There is hereby created the Actionable Response for Industry  
13 Skills and Excellence in Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK).

14        B. The purpose of ARISE-OK is to evaluate statewide workforce  
15 readiness, identify barriers to employment, strengthen workforce  
16 pipelines, and advance strategies that support business growth and  
17 economic competitiveness.

18        SECTION 3.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 652 of Title 40, unless there is  
20 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21        For purposes of this act:

22        1. "Industry representative" means an individual employed by or  
23 affiliated with a private-sector business operating within the State  
24 of Oklahoma;

1           2. "Registered apprenticeship" means a program registered with  
2 the United States Department of Labor or the Oklahoma Office of  
3 Workforce Development;

4           3. "Task Force" or "ARISE-OK" means the Actionable Response for  
5 Industry Skills and Excellence Task Force created by this act; and

6           4. "Workforce barriers" includes transportation, childcare,  
7 credentialing, reentry, housing, and other obstacles preventing  
8 workforce entry or retention.

9           SECTION 4.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 653 of Title 40, unless there is  
11 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12           A. The Actionable Response for Industry Skills and Excellence  
13 in Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK) shall consist of the following  
14 voting members:

15           1. The Commissioner of Labor, who shall serve as chair, or  
16 designee;

17           2. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security  
18 Commission, or designee;

19           3. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of  
20 Commerce, or designee;

21           4. The State Director of Career and Technology Education, or  
22 designee;

23           5. The Chancellor of The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
24 Education, or designee; and

1 6. The Secretary of Agriculture, or designee.

2 B. The following shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members:

3 1. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Workforce Commission  
4 (OWC), or designee;

5 2. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Space Industry  
6 Development Authority (OSIDA), or designee;

7 3. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Center for the  
8 Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), or designee;

9 4. One representative of the Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium  
10 (OTFC); and

11 5. The Lieutenant Governor, or designee.

12 C. In addition, the Task Force shall include eleven (11)  
13 appointed voting members as follows:

14 1. To be appointed by the Commissioner of Labor:

15 a. an apprenticeship or workforce training specialist,

16 b. a workforce training provider representative, and

17 c. a workforce barrier-reduction specialist;

18 2. To be appointed by the Governor:

19 a. an energy sector representative, and

20 b. a technology sector representative;

21 3. To be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of  
22 Representatives:

23 a. a construction sector representative,

24 b. a manufacturing sector representative, and

1 c. a veteran or military transition representative; and

2 4. To be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma  
3 State Senate:

4 a. an agriculture sector representative,

5 b. a health care sector representative, and

6 c. a statewide business or industry representative.

7 D. Members shall serve until the Task Force submits its final  
8 report, unless replaced by the appointing authority. The appointing  
9 authority has discretion to replace a member he or she appointed.

10 E. If any appointed member has not been selected by the  
11 designated appointing authority within sixty (60) days of the  
12 effective date of this act, the chair of the Task Force shall make  
13 the appointment to fill the vacancy. Such appointment shall serve  
14 until the appointing authority selects a member or until the Task  
15 Force submits its final report, whichever occurs first.

16 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 654 of Title 40, unless there is  
18 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 The Actionable Response for Industry Skills and Excellence in  
20 Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK) shall:

21 1. Evaluate Oklahoma's workforce readiness and talent shortages  
22 across all industry sectors;

23 2. Identify regulatory, statutory, and practical barriers to  
24 employment;

1           3. Recommend strategies to strengthen workforce training,  
2 apprenticeships, career and technical education, education  
3 alignment, and employer participation;

4           4. Study workforce challenges within agriculture,  
5 manufacturing, energy, construction, health care, technology, and  
6 veteran transition sectors;

7           5. Engage rural, urban, and veteran communities to ensure  
8 statewide workforce responsiveness;

9           6. Coordinate studies and data requests within the Oklahoma  
10 Workforce Commission to avoid duplication and ensure complementary  
11 efforts;

12           7. Provide statutory and administrative recommendations to  
13 improve workforce effectiveness and business competitiveness;

14           8. Address workforce challenges not explicitly within the  
15 Commission's statutory mission, including cross-sector coordination,  
16 long-term strategic workforce policy, and structural barriers; and

17           9. Leverage expertise from ex officio members for emerging  
18 industries and workforce insights.

19           SECTION 6.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 655 of Title 40, unless there is  
21 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22           A. The Actionable Response for Industry Skills and Excellence  
23 in Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK) shall submit the following written  
24 reports of findings and legislative recommendations, as follows:

- 1 1. Interim report by December 1, 2027;
  - 2 2. Second report by December 1, 2028; and
  - 3 3. Final report by December 1, 2029.
- 4 B. Each report shall be submitted to:
- 5 1. The Governor;
  - 6 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate;
  - 7 3. The Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;
  - 8 4. The Oklahoma Workforce Commission; and
  - 9 5. The public via an online posting by the Department of Labor.

10 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 656 of Title 40, unless there is  
12 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. Members of the Actionable Response for Industry Skills and  
14 Excellence in Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK) who are state employees  
15 shall receive no additional compensation for duties performed under  
16 this act.

17 B. Legislative or appointed members who are not state employees  
18 may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses in accordance with  
19 the State Travel Reimbursement Act, subject to available funds.

20 C. No member shall receive a stipend or per diem for service on  
21 the Task Force.

22 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 657 of Title 40, unless there is  
24 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 The Department of Labor shall provide staff support, meeting  
2 coordination, report posting, and administrative assistance to the  
3 Actionable Response for Industry Skills and Excellence in Oklahoma  
4 Task Force (ARISE-OK).

5 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 658 of Title 40, unless there is  
7 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. The Actionable Response for Industry Skills and Excellence  
9 in Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK) shall terminate on December 31,  
10 2029, unless continued by an act of the Legislature enacted no later  
11 than the 2029 Regular Session.

12 B. Prior to termination, the Task Force shall submit its final  
13 report, and the Legislature may extend, modify, or continue the Task  
14 Force through subsequent legislation.

15 SECTION 10. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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