

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 3403

By: Patzkowsky

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to environment and natural resources;
9 creating the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application
10 Research Pilot Program Act; requiring the Pilot
11 Program be administered by the Department of
12 Environmental Quality in cooperation with Oklahoma
13 State University; providing for expiration of Pilot
14 Program; listing requirements for the Pilot Program;
15 requiring certain annual report be submitted; listing
16 requirements for annual report; authorizing
17 partnerships with private landowners; limiting
18 liability; making certain exemption; requiring
19 certain documentation be kept; authorizing funding;
20 requiring deposit of funds in certain revolving fund;
21 creating the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application
22 Research Pilot Program Act Revolving Fund; describing
23 fund; providing for content of fund; providing for
24 deposits and expenditures; 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 2-10-1120 of Title 27A, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot Program Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-10-1121 of Title 27A, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. There is hereby created at Oklahoma State University (OSU)
5 the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research "Pilot Program".
6 The Pilot Program shall be administered by the Department of
7 Environmental Quality (DEQ) in cooperation with the Division of
8 Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in coordination with the
9 OSU College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, the OSU
10 Department of Environmental Science, and the Cooperative Extension
11 Service. The Pilot Program shall operate for an initial five-year
12 period.

13 B. The Pilot Program shall:

14 1. Identify and approve study plots on agricultural lands,
15 including, but not limited to, OSU-owned research farms and, as
16 appropriate, cooperating private farms;

17 2. Develop biosolids application protocols, including:

- 18 a. nutrient content evaluation,
- 19 b. pathogen and contaminant screening (including
20 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS),
21 heavy metals, and pharmaceuticals),
- 22 c. application rates, and
- 23 d. soil amendment practices;

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1 3. Conduct agronomic research, including crop yield impacts,
2 soil health changes, and nutrient cycling;

3 4. Conduct environmental impact studies, including:

4 a. surface and groundwater monitoring,

5 b. soil residual testing, and

6 c. air quality, odor, and vector considerations;

7 5. Assess regulatory models, including best management
8 practices, permitting options, and compliance structures suitable
9 for Oklahoma;

10 6. Coordinate with the DEQ and may utilize biosolids supplied
11 by Oklahoma municipal wastewater treatment facilities that meet DEQ
12 and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards; and

13 7. Provide outreach and education to Oklahoma farmers,
14 ranchers, conservation districts, and municipalities through OSU
15 Extension programs.

16 C. A report shall be submitted annually to the Governor, the
17 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, the Speaker of
18 the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the DEQ regarding
19 findings, data, and recommendations. Annual reports shall be
20 submitted no later than December 1st and include:

21 1. Agronomic outcomes;

22 2. Environmental monitoring results;

23 3. Risk assessments;

24 4. Recommendations for statewide standards or rules; and

1 5. Cost-benefit analysis for farmers and municipalities.

2 D. OSU may partner with private agricultural landowners who
3 volunteer to participate in research trials. OSU shall secure
4 written consent, ensure DEQ compliance, and provide guidelines for
5 application, monitoring, and sampling. No landowner shall be held
6 liable for environmental impacts resulting solely from adherence to
7 OSU protocols developed under the Pilot Program.

8 E. Biosolids applied under the Pilot Program shall be exempt
9 from state permitting otherwise required under environmental or land
10 application rules, only to the extent necessary to conduct
11 controlled research, and only when research protocols meet or exceed
12 DEQ and EPA requirements. OSU shall coordinate with DEQ to ensure
13 proper recordkeeping and transport documentation.

14 F. The Pilot Program may be funded by legislative
15 appropriations, federal research grants, municipal contributions,
16 private or industry research partnerships, or in-kind contributions
17 of biosolids or laboratory services. Funds for administering the
18 Pilot Program shall be deposited into the Oklahoma Biosolids Land
19 Application Research Pilot Program Act Revolving Fund created in
20 Section 3 of this act.

21 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-10-1122 of Title 27A, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
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1 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
2 for the Department of Environmental Quality to be designated the
3 "Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot Program Act
4 Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject
5 to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received
6 by the Department from appropriations, apportionments, donations,
7 and federal grants received for the purpose of conducting the
8 provisions of the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot
9 Program Act created pursuant to Section 2 of this act. All monies
10 accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may
11 be budgeted and expended by the Department for the purpose provided
12 for in this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon
13 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as
14 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and
15 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

16 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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