

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION

FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 701

By: Haste and Gillespie of the
Senate

and

Hasenbeck and Marti of the
House

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to higher education; declaring a moratorium on certain higher education course and program restrictions; providing for functional exceptions; defining term; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 4675 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning on the effective date of this act and ending five (5) academic years thereafter, there is hereby declared a moratorium on the following higher education course and program restrictions:

1 1. Northern Oklahoma College's exclusive authority to offer all
2 lower division courses and programs at the University Center at
3 Ponca City as provided by subsection B of Section 3213.1 of this
4 title;

5 2. Connors State College's restriction to lower division
6 classes and programs as provided by subsection B of Section 3405.1
7 of this title;

8 3. Northeastern State University Muskogee branch's restriction
9 to upper division classes and programs and graduate classes at
10 Masters level as provided by subsection C of Section 3405.1 of this
11 title;

12 4. Oklahoma State University-Tulsa's restriction to upper
13 division undergraduate courses and degree programs as provided by
14 Section 4662 of this title;

15 5. Oklahoma State University's prohibition from duplicating
16 undergraduate courses offered by Tulsa Community College as provided
17 by Section 4665 of this title;

18 6. Oklahoma State University's prohibition from duplicating
19 undergraduate degree programs offered by Langston University Branch
20 in Tulsa as provided by Section 4667 of this title;

21 7. Langston University Branch in Tulsa's restriction to upper
22 division undergraduate and graduate courses as provided by Section
23 4667 of this title;

1 8. Northeastern State University in Tulsa's restriction to
2 upper division undergraduate and graduate courses as provided by
3 Section 4668 of this title;

4 9. Oklahoma State University-Tulsa's prohibition from
5 duplicating undergraduate degree programs offered by Northeastern
6 State University in Tulsa as provided by Section 4668 of this title;

7 10. Any restrictions imposed by law preventing two-year
8 community colleges and junior colleges from offering upper division
9 undergraduate courses and undergraduate degree programs; and

10 11. Any other geographical restrictions imposed by law
11 restricting the offering of undergraduate courses or undergraduate
12 degree programs at institutions of higher education with The State
13 System of Higher Education.

14 B. The State Regents for Higher Education may approve
15 functional exceptions. As used in this section, "functional
16 exception" means an expansion or exception to assigned institutional
17 function or mission to permit an institution of higher education
18 within The State System of Higher Education to offer courses or
19 degree programs outside the institution's assigned function or
20 mission to meet unmet workforce needs.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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