

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 701

By: Haste and Gillespie of the
Senate

and

Hasenbeck, Marti, Woolley,
Banning, Ford, and Chapman
of the House

An Act relating to higher education; authorizing the approval of functional exceptions; defining term; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3213.1, which relates to the University Center at Ponca City; removing certain limitation; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3405.1, which relates to classes and programs offered to the people of Muskogee; expanding classes and course offerings; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4662, which relates to Rogers University in Tulsa; expanding undergraduate course offerings; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4667, which relates to Langston University in Tulsa; expanding course offerings; removing limitation on Oklahoma State University-Tulsa course offerings; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4668, which relates to Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow; expanding course offerings; removing limitation on Oklahoma State University-Tulsa course offerings; repealing 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4665, which relates to courses at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa not to duplicate Tulsa Community College courses; providing for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Higher education

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:

The State Regents for Higher Education may approve functional exceptions. "Functional exception" means an expansion or exception to assigned institutional function or mission to permit an institution of higher education within The State System of Higher Education to offer courses or degree programs outside the institution's assigned function or mission to meet unmet workforce needs.

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

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

B. The State Regents shall draw upon the educational programs of institutions best suited to provide the kind of educational programs needed and shall, in pursuance of Article XIII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution of Oklahoma and appropriate statutes, set the standards of education as they relate to the programs operated to assure that credits earned by students will be fully accepted at institutions of higher education to which the students may transfer the credit to apply toward an educational study objective. ~~Northern Oklahoma College shall have exclusive authority to offer all lower division courses and programs at the University Center at Ponca City as listed in the current college catalog of Northern Oklahoma College.~~

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

D. There is hereby created a board of nine (9) trustees to be appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate to serve as the administrative agency for the University Center at Ponca City. The board shall be a body corporate and shall adopt and use an official seal. The board so created shall have the authority to submit a budget annually to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, administer monies budgeted by the State Regents, provide educational facilities, recommend courses and programs to be offered by participating institutions, select a chief executive officer whose duties include the general coordination of approved programs and services and the selection of other appropriate nonteaching personnel. The board of trustees is authorized to expend all monies allocated to the University Center at Ponca City as may be necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the board by this section. For purposes of acquiring and taking title to real and personal property from sources other than state appropriations, the board is authorized to enter into contracts and to adopt rules and regulations pertaining to such actions. The initial nine (9) members shall serve their terms for the period to which originally appointed, in numbered positions having dates of expiration identical to the dates of expiration of the original appointments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall provide ~~lower-division~~ classes and programs through a branch of Connors State College as the State Regents shall determine are appropriate, which shall be established and located in Muskogee. The branch campus of Connors State College shall be governed by the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges and administered through Connors State College.

C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall provide ~~upper-division~~ classes and programs ~~and graduate classes at~~

~~the Masters level~~ through a branch of Northeastern State University as the State Regents shall determine are appropriate, which shall be established and located at Muskogee. The branch campus of Northeastern State University shall be governed by the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges and administered through Northeastern State University.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4662, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4662. A. On January 1, 1999, there shall be established as a successor to Rogers University in Tulsa a branch institution of Oklahoma State University which shall be known as ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and shall offer ~~upper division~~ undergraduate courses and baccalaureate degree programs as the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education shall determine are appropriate. No later than July 1, 2001, the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in cooperation with the ~~Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education~~, shall have developed and implemented programs leading to baccalaureate degrees that can be earned at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa.

B. Beginning with the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa shall be designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education acting through Oklahoma State University; provided that dual degree programs may be offered at ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and dual degrees may be awarded through Oklahoma State University and other institutions.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4667, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4667. A. On July 1, 2001, there shall be established a branch of Langston University within the Tulsa metropolitan area consistent with the statewide plan for Langston University as provided in Section ~~6~~ 4666 of this ~~act~~ title. Langston University shall continue to meet the missions and programs of the Langston Urban Center in Tulsa. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to make ~~upper division~~ undergraduate and

graduate course offerings at the Langston University Branch in Tulsa available as the State Regents shall determine are appropriate. Undergraduate degree programs offered through ~~Oklahoma State University/Tulsa shall not duplicate those undergraduate degree programs offered by Langston University Branch in Tulsa, as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and~~ Oklahoma State University-Tulsa shall be consistent with and in furthering implementation of the statewide plan for Langston University as developed by the State Regents pursuant to Section ~~6~~ 4666 of this ~~act~~ title and filed with the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall fund Langston University at a level not less than its fiscal year 1998 level, and its Education and General Budget shall be held harmless from reductions in succeeding years. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall allocate funds to Langston University sufficient to fund full time faculty in Tulsa at a level equal to seventy percent (70%) of its faculty level that existed in Tulsa in fiscal year 1998 and adequate building and classroom space which were funded in fiscal year 1998 in order to carry out all functions in Tulsa. The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges shall allocate space for Langston University in Tulsa.

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

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

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4668, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4668. A. On July 1, 2001, there may be established a branch of Northeastern State University within the Tulsa metropolitan area. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to make ~~upper-division~~ undergraduate and graduate

course offerings at the Northeastern State University branch in Broken Arrow available as the State Regents shall determine are appropriate. ~~Undergraduate degree programs offered through Oklahoma State University/Tulsa shall not duplicate those undergraduate degree programs offered by Northeastern State University in Tulsa, as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.~~

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

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

D. Beginning with the 2001 - 2002 academic year, degrees earned at the Northeastern State University ~~Branch~~ branch in ~~Tulsa~~ Broken Arrow shall be designated as awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education acting through Northeastern State University.

SECTION 7. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 4665, is hereby repealed.

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

Passed the Senate the 21st day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____