

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1547

By: Patzkowsky and Cantrell of
the House

and

Pederson of the Senate

An Act relating to agricultural fairs and expositions; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-24, which relates to items to be considered in expenditure of funds; modifying language; permitting consideration of certain communications and supporting equipment; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-55, which relates to election of officers and directors of the county fair association; requiring voting window; providing procedures for removal of officers and directors; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-58, which relates to items to be considered in expenditure of funds; modifying language; permitting consideration of certain communications and supporting equipment; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-70, which relates to annual levy in support and maintenance of fair; permitting use of funds for certain communications and supporting equipment; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Agriculture, fairs and expositions

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-24, is amended to read as follows:

Section 15-24. A. The executive board shall:

1. Make an estimate of the cost of the free district fair;

2. Apportion to each of the counties comprising the association the portion to be borne by each member county together with the plan and items of expenditures; and

3. Certify the estimate to the county excise board in each of the member counties in time to be acted on by the county excise board at its annual meeting for making tax levies.

B. The items to be considered in the expenditure of funds shall be for:

1. Premiums on livestock, poultry, fruit, agriculture, horticultural and dairy products; boys' and girls' club work, school exhibits, culinary products, textile products, needlework and sewing, hand painting, decorating and drawing, and cultivated plants and flowers;

2. The necessary expenses of management of free district fairs organized under the provisions of this article, including office expense, postage, ~~telegraph and telephone~~, digital and electronic communication, Internet and supporting equipment, traveling expenses of secretary within the district in which the fair is held, printing (except premium lists) and necessary office supplies, premium ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards, superintendents and judges; and

3. Advertising the fair and for decorating and cleaning the grounds and buildings, and for caring for the grounds during the fair.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-55, is amended to read as follows:

Section 15-55. A. As soon as practicable, prior to July first, after the election of members of the county fair association, the members elect shall meet at the county seat and shall perfect an organization by the election of a president, vice president, secretary and a board of directors. The members elect shall designate a day where they shall have a twelve-hour window to vote for the election of a president, vice president, secretary, and Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the president, vice president, secretary and four members, and such committees and officers as shall be deemed necessary. The secretary may be selected outside of the association, but must be a resident

of the county seat or the town or city where the county fair is held.

B. The president, vice president, secretary, or any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from their position for failure to attend at least fifty percent (50%) of meetings in a calendar year. The president, vice president, secretary, and members of the Board of Directors may be removed from their positions by a unanimous vote of all other members.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-58, is amended to read as follows:

Section 15-58. A. The executive board, with such committee as may be selected from the county fair association, shall make an estimate of the cost of the township and county fairs, and shall certify such estimate to the county excise board in time to be acted upon by the county excise board at its annual meeting for making tax levies.

B. The items to be considered in the expenditure of funds shall be for:

1. Premiums on livestock, poultry, agricultural and horticultural products, dairy products, boys' and girls' club work, products of domestic science and domestic arts, school exhibits, hand painting, decorating and drawing, manufactured articles, cultivated plants and flowers;

2. Necessary expenses of management of township and county fairs organized under the provisions of this article, including office expenses, postage, ~~telegraph and~~ telephone, digital and electronic communication, Internet and supporting equipment, salary and traveling expenses of the secretary, printing and necessary office supplies, premium ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards, superintendents and judges;

3. Advertising the fairs and for decorating and cleaning the grounds and buildings, and for caring for the grounds and buildings; and

4. Transportation and arrangement of township fair exhibits at the county fair and county fair exhibits at the Oklahoma State Fair and other State Fairs.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-70, is amended to read as follows:

Section 15-70. A. The county commissioners, the county excise board and all other proper officers of the county may make an annual levy upon all taxable property in the county in an amount not to exceed one-half ($1/2$) of one (1) mill per annum in counties of more than fifteen thousand (15,000) population. In counties of less than fifteen thousand (15,000) population, the proper officers of the county may make an annual levy upon all taxable property in the county of not exceeding one (1) mill per annum. The purpose of the levy is to raise funds for:

1. The support and maintenance of the fair, including the payment of premiums on livestock, poultry, agricultural and horticultural products, dairy products, boys' and girls' club work or other junior agricultural organizations which shall be in one class, products of domestic science and domestic arts, farm women's clubs, hand paintings, cultivated plants and flowers;

2. Necessary expenses of management of said fair, including office expenses, postage, ~~telegraph and telephone~~, digital and electronic communication, Internet and supporting equipment, salary and traveling expenses of the secretary, printing and necessary office supplies;

3. Premium ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards, superintendents and judges;

4. Advertising, decorating and cleaning the grounds and buildings; and

5. The repair of or erecting buildings owned and controlled by said county that are or will be used for free fair purposes.

B. In the counties of this state having a population in excess of fifty-five thousand (55,000), according to the 1940 Federal Decennial Census and in which county there is not authorized a state fair, it shall be the mandatory duty of the county commissioners and the excise board and other officers of the county, to make annual levy for the purposes specified by this section upon all taxable property in such county of not less than one-fourth ($1/4$) of one (1) mill per annum.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

Passed the House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 5th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

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: _____

