

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

February 9, 2026

SENATE BILL NO. 2061

By: Nice

An Act relating to food policy; creating the Oklahoma Food Policy Council Act; providing short title; defining terms; establishing membership of the Oklahoma Food Policy Council; providing for membership terms; providing for filling of vacancies; requiring compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act; allowing for reimbursement of certain expenses; providing for an advisory and coordinating role to connect farmers, community gardens, and local organizations; promoting sustainable locally grown food and farm-to-school initiatives; supporting producer-to-consumer access, farmers markets, and agritourism; providing for collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry; requiring annual reporting to the Governor and the Legislature; providing for noncodification; 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 not to be

codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Food
Policy Council Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-3.6 of Title 2, unless there
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 As used in this act:

2 1. "Community garden" means any land cultivated by individuals
3 or groups for production of food for personal or local use or
4 community benefit;

5 2. "Farmers hub" means a facility, organization, or coordinated
6 network that supports the handling, storage, processing, or
7 distribution of agricultural products produced by multiple farmers
8 or producers;

9 3. "Local food" means food produced, grown, or processed within
10 this state; and

11 4. "Sustainable food" means an integrated food system that
12 supports economic viability for farmers or producers, protects
13 natural resources, enhances efficient use of land and water, and
14 promotes accessibility to safe and nutritious food.

15 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-3.7 of Title 2, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Food Policy Council
19 within the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry.

20 B. The Council shall consist of nine (9) members:

21 1. The Governor shall appoint three members as follows:

22 a. one member representing the Farm to School program who
23 shall serve an initial term of one (1) year,

1 b. one member representing local and county food security
2 initiatives who shall serve an initial term of two (2)
3 years, and

4 c. one member representing the State Department of Health
5 who shall serve an initial term of three (3) years;

6 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint three

7 members as follows:

8 a. one member from the Food Safety Division of the
9 Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
10 who shall serve an initial term of one (1) year,

11 b. one member who is an agricultural producer within this
12 state who shall serve an initial term of two (2)
13 years, and

14 c. one member representing conservation and sustainable
15 agricultural practices who shall serve an initial term
16 of three (3) years;

17 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint

18 three members as follows:

19 a. one member from a food bank within this state who
20 shall serve an initial term of one (1) year,

21 b. one member representing local food distribution and
22 local food supply chains who shall serve an initial
23 term of two (2) years, and

1 c. one member representing the Agricultural Environmental
2 Management Division of the Oklahoma Department of
3 Agriculture, Food, and Forestry who shall serve an
4 initial term of three (3) years;

5 4. Members appointed to the Council shall serve staggered terms
6 of three (3) years, and after the initial appointment, each term
7 shall be for three (3) years; and

8 5. Any vacancy on the Council resulting from the resignation of
9 a member or otherwise shall be filled in the same manner as the
10 original appointment was made and the term shall be for the amount
11 of time of the unexpired term of the member who created the vacancy.

12 C. The Council shall elect from among its members a chair, vice
13 chair, and any other officers that the Council deems necessary.

14 D. The Council shall meet at least four (4) times per year or
15 as the chair deems necessary and shall comply with the Oklahoma Open
16 Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

17 E. The Council members shall receive no compensation for
18 serving on the Council but shall be eligible for reimbursement of
19 travel expenses incurred pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement
20 Act.

21 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-3.8 of Title 2, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. The Oklahoma Food Policy Council shall serve in a solely
2 advisory and coordinating capacity and shall:

3 1. Create networks of farmers to local organizations to provide
4 sustainable locally grown food to consumers throughout this state;

5 2. Strengthen coordination between existing programs that
6 support sustainable food production, farm-to-schools initiatives,
7 and producer-to-consumer access;

8 3. Assess the impact of the production of sustainable food
9 distributed locally on the economic development of the state,
10 enhancing the use of locally produced food for use in restaurants,
11 retail, and agritourism;

12 4. Assess the utilization of urban gardens and community
13 gardens for the purpose of improving the health of citizens, and
14 allowing for the use of urban property; and

15 5. Connect producers of sustainable food to farmers markets in
16 the state.

17 B. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
18 may coordinate with the Council to identify any existing farmers
19 hubs, and promote collaboration between producers, community
20 gardens, local food banks or organizations, and local governments to
21 share best practices and resources to support the distribution of
22 sustainable food.

23 C. The Council shall electronically submit an annual report to
24 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives with any recommendations and
2 a summary of its findings.

3 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE
February 9, 2026 - DO PASS

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24