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March 4, 2025

By: Seifried

An Act relating to Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology; amending Section 1, Chapter 272, O.S.L. 2022 (74 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 5060.44), which relates to intern partnership for STEM Workforce Pipeline Program; modifying definition; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 272, O.S.L.
2022 (74 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 5060.44), is amended to read as
follows:

Section 5060.44. A. As used in this section:

1. "Applicant organization" means an Oklahoma-based entity that is a nonprofit research foundation or private enterprise of special importance to the Oklahoma economy; and

2. "Eligible student" means an individual currently enrolled in a technology center school under the governance of the State Board of Career and Technology Education or an individual currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at an institution of higher education who is majoring in a science, technology,

1 engineering, and mathematics (STEM) based discipline including, but
2 not limited to, natural sciences, computer science, materials
3 science, engineering, biomedical, biotechnical, data analytics,
4 finance, mathematics, or a support area related to building
5 successful Oklahoma high-tech companies.

6 B. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Center for the
7 Advancement of Science and Technology Intern Partnership for STEM
8 Workforce Pipeline Program to be administered by the Oklahoma Center
9 for the Advancement of Science and Technology under the governance
10 of the Oklahoma Science and Technology Research and Development
11 Board.

12 C. The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and
13 Technology may award competitive internship funds, through
14 professional service contracts, to applicant organizations to hire
15 qualified student interns to participate in innovative industry
16 projects.

17 D. To qualify for program internship funds, the applicant
18 organization must provide:

19 1. Documentation verifying that not less than fifty percent
20 (50%) of the total direct cost of the proposed project will be
21 provided by sources other than the Oklahoma Center for the
22 Advancement of Science and Technology and other state-appropriated
23 money. Such sources may be in the form of salary, cash, nonstate
24

1 grant funds, and other sources of funding as defined by the Oklahoma
2 Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology;

3 2. A description of the potential commercial application of and
4 the industrial sectors that will likely benefit from the project and
5 the potential to enhance employment opportunities in Oklahoma;

6 3. An itemized research budget, timeline, and research
7 methodology; and

8 4. Any other information that may be required by the Board.

9 E. The Board shall award professional service contracts after
10 it determines the applicant organization:

11 1. Provides a beneficial and meaningful intern experience which
12 includes exposure to real-world application of technology and
13 innovation activities;

14 2. Involves projects leading to innovation, new knowledge, or
15 technology that will benefit the applicant organization;

16 3. Has a reasonable probability to enhance employment
17 opportunities within Oklahoma;

18 4. Is technically sound, will produce a measurable result, and
19 will provide a positive impact to the applicant organization; and

20 5. Does not involve market surveys or research activities that
21 create fundamental or basic information which lack the potential for
22 reasonably short-term commercialization.

23 F. Based upon the information submitted by the applicant
24 organization, external peer review, and such additional

1 investigation as the staff of the Center shall make, the Board may
2 approve such professional service contracts after the Board finds
3 that:

4 1. The proposed project is research that leads to innovation,
5 new knowledge, or technology and is not training or technical
6 assistance for business firms;

7 2. The project has a reasonable probability to enhance
8 employment opportunities within the state; and

9 3. The project is technically sound and will produce a
10 measurable result.

11 G. The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and
12 Technology shall promulgate rules necessary to implement and
13 administer the program authorized in this section.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
16 March 4, 2025 - DO PASS
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