

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 1869

By: Standridge

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Educational
8 Television Authority; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections
9 23-105, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 296, O.S.L.
10 2023, 23-106, as amended by Section 574, Chapter 486,
11 O.S.L. 2025, and 23-118 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Sections
12 23-105 and 23-106), which relate to the Oklahoma
13 Educational Television Authority; removing certain
14 essentiality of the Authority; altering certain
15 powers of the Authority; prohibiting the Authority
16 from charging certain fee for certain programs;
17 prohibiting transfer of appropriated monies to the
18 Authority; directing transfer of certain funds to the
19 Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund; transferring
20 certain facilities to the Office of Management and
21 Enterprise Services; authorizing the Office of
22 Management and Enterprise Services to lease certain
23 facilities to the Authority; creating the Healthy
24 Parks Healthy Minds Fund; repealing 70 O.S. 2021,
25 Sections 23-101, 23-107, 23-108, 23-109, 23-110, 23-
26 111, 23-112, 23-113, 23-114, 23-115, 23-116, 23-117,
27 23-120, 23-121, 23-122, 23-123, 23-124, and 23-126,
28 which relate to the Oklahoma Educational Television
29 Authority; providing for codification; providing an
30 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

32 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-105, as

33 amended by Section 1, Chapter 296, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,

34 Section 23-105), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 23-105. There is hereby re-created, to continue until
2 July 1, 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma
3 Sunset Law, Section 3901 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
4 Statutes, a body corporate and politic to be known as the "Oklahoma
5 Educational Television Authority", and by that name the Authority
6 may sue and be sued, and plead and be impleaded. ~~The Authority is~~
7 ~~hereby constituted an instrumentality of the state, and the exercise~~
8 ~~by the Authority of the powers conferred by this article for the~~
9 ~~planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of educational~~
10 ~~television facilities shall be deemed and held to be an essential~~
11 ~~function of the state.~~

12 The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority shall consist of
13 thirteen (13) members, including the President of the University of
14 Oklahoma, the President of Oklahoma State University, the State
15 Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the Oklahoma
16 State Regents for Higher Education, the president of one of the
17 state-supported four-year colleges to be chosen by the presidents of
18 this group of institutions, the president of one of the state-
19 supported two-year colleges to be chosen by the presidents of this
20 group of institutions, and seven additional members to be appointed
21 by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve
22 seven-year terms.

23 The appointed members shall have been residents of the state for
24 at least five (5) years preceding the date of their appointment.

1 The appointed members shall include one member from each of the
2 congressional districts and any remaining members shall be appointed
3 from the state at large. However, when congressional districts are
4 redrawn each member appointed prior to July 1 of the year in which
5 such modification becomes effective shall complete the current term
6 of office and appointments made after July 1 of the year in which
7 such modification becomes effective shall be based on the redrawn
8 districts. Appointments made after July 1 of the year in which such
9 modification becomes effective shall be from any redrawn districts
10 which are not represented by an authority member until such time as
11 each of the modified congressional districts are represented by an
12 authority member. A majority of the appointed members shall be
13 actively engaged in the profession of education. Each appointed
14 member of the Authority, before entering upon the duties of the
15 member, shall take the oath provided for by Section 1 of Article XV
16 of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma.

17 The seven original members appointed by the Governor shall
18 continue in office for terms expiring on June 30, 1954; June 30,
19 1955; June 30, 1956; June 30, 1957; June 30, 1958; June 30, 1959;
20 and June 30, 1960, respectively. The terms of each of the original
21 appointed members shall be designated by the Governor, and said
22 members shall serve for their appointed terms and until their
23 respective successors shall be appointed and qualified. The
24 successor of each appointed member shall be appointed for a term of

1 seven (7) years, except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy
2 shall be appointed to serve only for the unexpired term in said
3 vacancy.

4 The Authority shall elect from the membership of the Authority a
5 chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary-treasurer. Any such officers
6 elected by the Authority on or after July 1, 1984, shall be
7 appointed to serve a term of one (1) year. Seven members of the
8 Authority shall constitute a quorum, and the vote of seven members
9 shall be necessary for any action taken by the Authority. No
10 vacancy in the membership of the Authority shall impair the right of
11 a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of
12 the Authority. The Authority shall meet at least quarterly.

13 The members of the Authority shall not be entitled to
14 compensation for their services, but each member shall be reimbursed
15 for travel expenses incurred in performing official duties in
16 accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement
17 Act. No liability or obligation shall be incurred by the Authority
18 beyond the extent to which monies shall have been provided pursuant
19 to the authority of this article.

20 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-106, as
21 amended by Section 574, Chapter 486, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
22 2025, Section 23-106), is amended to read as follows:

23 Section 23-106. The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority
24 is hereby authorized and empowered:

1 1. To accept, assume, and control the television channels
2 assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the State of
3 Oklahoma for educational purposes;

4 2. To adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the
5 conduct of its business;

6 3. To adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

7 4. To maintain an office at such place or places within the
8 state as ~~it may designate~~ designated by the Office of Management and
9 Enterprise Services;

10 5. To sue and be sued in its own name, plead and be impleaded;
11 provided, however, that any and all actions, at law or in equity,
12 against the Authority shall be brought in the county in which the
13 principal office of the Authority shall be located, or in the county
14 of the residence of the plaintiff, or in the county where the cause
15 of action arose;

16 6. To ~~construct, maintain, repair and~~ operate television
17 facilities which with their access connections are designated
18 ultimately to extend to and include all sections and areas of the
19 State of Oklahoma;

20 7. ~~To issue revenue bonds of the Authority, payable solely from~~
21 ~~dedicated revenues, for the purpose of paying all or any part of the~~
22 ~~cost of needed facilities;~~

23 8. ~~To fix and revise from time to time any necessary charges~~
24 ~~for the use of any facilities;~~

1 9. To pay for the annual cost of the operation, maintenance and
2 repair of such facilities;

3 10. To pay as and when due the principal and interest on the
4 revenue certificates or bonds issued to pay for such facilities;

5 11. To accumulate and maintain such reserves as are provided
6 for in the resolution or trust indenture under which such bonds are
7 issued or secured;

8 12. To acquire, hold, or dispose of real and personal property
9 in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties
10 under this act;

11 13. To acquire in the name of the Authority by purchase or
12 otherwise, on such terms and conditions and in such manner as it may
13 deem proper, or by the exercise of the right of condemnation in
14 manner hereinafter provided, such public or private lands, rights-
15 of-way, property, rights, easements, and interests, as it may deem
16 necessary for carrying out the provisions of this article; and it is
17 the intent of the Legislature that all public property damaged in
18 carrying out the powers granted by this article shall be restored or
19 repaired and placed in its original condition as nearly as
20 practicable;

21 14. To designate, except as is provided for herein, the
22 locations; and to establish, limit and control such points of
23 ingress to and egress from each facility as may be necessary or
24

1 desirable in the judgment of the Authority to insure the proper
2 operation ~~and maintenance~~ of such facility;

3 15. 8. To make and enter into all contracts and agreements
4 necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the
5 execution of its powers under this article, and to employ consulting
6 engineers, attorneys, accountants, construction and financial
7 experts, superintendents, managers, and such other employees and
8 agents as may be necessary in its judgment, and to fix their
9 compensation;

10 16. ~~To receive appropriations from the State Legislature and~~
11 ~~accept from any federal agency grants for or in aid of the~~
12 ~~construction and operation of any project; provided, the acceptance~~
13 ~~of such grants or appropriations will not reduce the amount of~~
14 ~~federal aid for other education in this state; and to receive and~~
15 ~~accept aid or contributions from any source of either money,~~
16 ~~property, labor, or other things of value;~~

17 17. 9. To do any and all things necessary to comply with rules,
18 regulations, or requirements of the Federal Communications
19 Commission or any other federal agency administering any law enacted
20 by the Congress of the United States to aid or encourage education;
21 and

22 18. 10. To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out
23 the powers expressly granted in this article.

1 It shall be unlawful for any member, officer, or employee of the
2 Authority to transact with the Authority, either directly or
3 indirectly, any business for profit of such member, officer, or
4 employee; and any person, firm or corporation knowingly
5 participating therein shall be equally liable for violation of this
6 provision.

7 The term "business for profit" shall include, but not be limited
8 to, the acceptance or payment of any fee, commission, gift or
9 consideration to such member, officer, or employee.

10 Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of
11 this section shall be guilty of a Class D1 felony offense, and shall
12 be punishable by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars
13 (\$500.00), and not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or
14 by imprisonment as provided for in subsections B through F of
15 Section 20N of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or by both such
16 fine and imprisonment.

17 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-118, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 23-118. ~~Each project when constructed and placed in use~~
20 ~~shall be maintained and kept in good condition and repair by the~~
21 ~~Authority. When all bonds issued under the provisions of this~~
22 ~~article in connection with any project and the interest thereon~~
23 ~~shall have been paid or a sufficient amount for the payment of all~~
24 ~~such bonds and the interest thereon to the maturity thereof shall~~

1 have been set aside in trust for the benefit of the bondholders,
2 such project, if then in good condition and repair to the
3 satisfaction of the State Legislature, shall become part of the
4 State Educational System.

5 A. All counties, cities, towns, municipalities and, school
6 districts of the state and all, institutions of higher education,
7 state boards, commissions, officials, and other public agencies,
8 notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, are hereby authorized
9 and empowered:

10 1. To lease, lend, grant or convey to the Authority at its
11 request upon such terms and conditions as the proper authorities of
12 such counties, cities, towns, municipalities, school districts of
13 the state, and all state boards, commissions, officials and other
14 public agencies may deem reasonable and fair and without the
15 necessity for any advertisement, order of court or other action or
16 formality other than the regular and formal action of the
17 authorities concerned, any personal property, real property and
18 other things of value which may be necessary or convenient to the
19 effectuation of the authorized purposes of the Authority, including
20 real property already devoted to public use; and

21 2. To lease, rent or contract to receive from the Authority,
22 for telecasting purposes, any programs that would be beneficial to
23 their interest and that of the State of Oklahoma. The Authority
24 shall not charge a fee for such programs.

1 B. No counties, cities, towns, municipalities, school
2 districts, institutions of higher education, state boards,
3 commissions, officials, or other public agencies shall transfer to
4 the Authority any monies that have previously been appropriated by
5 this state to such entities.

6 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 23-127 of Title 70, unless there
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 On the effective date of this act, all remaining funds and
10 monies to the credit of or in the possession of the Oklahoma
11 Educational Television Authority that were previously appropriated
12 by this state in fiscal year 2026 and earlier shall be transferred
13 into the Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund, as provided for in
14 Section 6 of this act.

15 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 23-128 of Title 70, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 All facilities of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority,
19 as defined in Section 23-104 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
20 shall be transferred to the Office of Management and Enterprise
21 Services (OMES). OMES shall lease such facilities to the Oklahoma
22 Educational Television Authority, with the proceeds of such leases
23 to be deposited in the Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund, as provided
24 for in Section 6 of this act.

1 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2295 of Title 74, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
5 for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to be designated
6 the "Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund". The fund shall be a
7 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
8 consist of all monies received by the Department from transfers from
9 the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, as provided for in
10 Section 4 of this act, and all monies received by the Office of
11 Management and Enterprise Services from leasing such facilities, as
12 provided for in Section 5 of this act. All monies accruing to the
13 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
14 expended by the Department for the maintenance of transferred
15 facilities and the improvement and maintenance of state parks.
16 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the
17 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
18 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
19 approval and payment.

20 SECTION 7. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-101, is
21 hereby repealed.

22 SECTION 8. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-107, is
23 hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 9. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-108, is
2 hereby repealed.

3 SECTION 10. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-109, is
4 hereby repealed.

5 SECTION 11. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-110, is
6 hereby repealed.

7 SECTION 12. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-111, is
8 hereby repealed.

9 SECTION 13. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-112, is
10 hereby repealed.

11 SECTION 14. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-113, is
12 hereby repealed.

13 SECTION 15. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-114, is
14 hereby repealed.

15 SECTION 16. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-115, is
16 hereby repealed.

17 SECTION 17. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-116, is
18 hereby repealed.

19 SECTION 18. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-117, is
20 hereby repealed.

21 SECTION 19. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-120, is
22 hereby repealed.

23 SECTION 20. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-121, is
24 hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 21. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-122, is
2 hereby repealed.

3 SECTION 22. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-123, is
4 hereby repealed.

5 SECTION 23. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-124, is
6 hereby repealed.

7 SECTION 24. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-126, is
8 hereby repealed.

9 SECTION 25. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

10 SECTION 26. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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