

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1898

By: Pugh

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; directing the
8 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to select
9 certain institutions of higher education to establish
10 Centers for Civic Engagement; providing purpose of
11 center; providing center activities, at the
12 discretion of certain governing board; requiring
13 electronic submission of certain report by certain
14 date; providing for contents of report; providing for
15 promulgation of rules; providing for codification;
16 providing an effective date; and declaring an
17 emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3350 of Title 70, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. To promote and provide programming related to civic
23 education, engagement, and discourse, the Oklahoma State Regents for
24 Higher Education shall select three institutions of higher education
25 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to establish a
Center for Civic Engagement. The State Regents shall select:

1. A comprehensive institution of higher education;

1 2. A regional institution of higher education; and
2 3. A two-year institution of higher education.

3 B. The purpose of each Center for Civic Engagement established
4 pursuant to subsection A of this section shall be to:

5 1. Enhance education in the fields of politics, economics,
6 philosophy, American history and government, and other related
7 fields as appropriate, with a focus on the rights and
8 responsibilities of American citizenship, fundamental democratic
9 principles, and the ways in which those principles are expressed in
10 federal, state, and local institutions;

11 2. Provide viewpoints and ideologically diverse resources to
12 students, faculty, state government agencies, educators, and the
13 general public regarding civic affairs;

14 3. Foster civic engagement through full and fair discussions
15 that promote civil dialogue among those holding conflicting points
16 of view; and

17 4. Assist in ensuring that institutions of higher education in
18 this state serve as robust marketplaces of ideas for all students
19 and faculty.

20 C. At the discretion of the governing board of each institution
21 of higher education chosen pursuant to subsection A of this section,
22 a Center for Civic Engagement created pursuant to this section may:

23 1. Establish an advisory board comprised of faculty and
24 students to guide the activities of the center;

1 2. Provide and facilitate internships and other relevant
2 experiences for students and the general public;
3 3. Hold events including, but not limited to, guest speakers
4 and nonpartisan public forums; and
5 4. Offer supplemental instruction to students in political
6 science, economics, philosophy, American history and government, and
7 any other field of study as appropriate.

8 D. By July 1, 2029, the State Regents shall electronically
9 submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
10 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report
11 shall include:

12 1. The number of students, faculty, and members of the general
13 public who engaged with each Center for Civic Engagement since its
14 establishment;

15 2. The types of activities held by each Center for Civic
16 Engagement; and

17 3. Recommendations for improvement and expansion of Centers for
18 Civic Engagement.

19 E. The State Regents may promulgate rules to implement the
20 provisions of this section.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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