

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 2051

By: Thompson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; creating the Oklahoma Research Attraction Program (ORAP) to be administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; providing purpose; defining terms; providing eligibility for certain matching grant subject to available funding; providing for use of matching grant; allowing an institution to use a matching grant in certain fiscal years; providing for promulgation of rules; creating the Oklahoma Research Attraction Program (ORAP) Revolving Fund; specifying source of fund; providing for expenditures; providing purpose of fund; 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 to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3234 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Research Attraction Program (ORAP) to be developed and administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to promote increased research capacity at eligible institutions of higher education by providing matching funds to leverage private gifts for the enhancement of

1 research productivity and faculty recruitment. Private gifts shall  
2 comply with the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of  
3 2018 and the Comprehensive Outbound Investment National Security Act  
4 of 2025.

5 B. For the purposes of this section:

6 1. "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher  
7 education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and

8 2. "Gift" means cash, cash equivalent, marketable securities,  
9 closely held securities, money market holdings, partnership  
10 interests, personal property, real property, mineral rights, and  
11 life insurance proceeds.

12 C. An eligible institution that receives private gifts may be  
13 eligible to receive a matching grant from funds appropriated to the  
14 Oklahoma Research Attraction Program (ORAP) Revolving Fund created  
15 in Section 2 of this act, subject to the availability of funding.

16 D. Matching grants provided pursuant to this section shall be  
17 used by an eligible institution only for the support and maintenance  
18 of educational and general activities including, but not limited to,  
19 research and student services that promote increased research  
20 capacity at the institution.

21 E. A matching grant received by an eligible institution  
22 pursuant to this section that is not used by the institution in the  
23 fiscal year for which it is provided may be used by the institution  
24 in subsequent fiscal years.

1 F. The State Regents shall promulgate rules to implement the  
2 provisions of this section.

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3235 of Title 70, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
7 for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to be designated  
8 the "Oklahoma Research Attraction Program (ORAP) Revolving Fund".  
9 The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year  
10 limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the State  
11 Regents from legislative appropriations provided for the purpose of  
12 implementing the Oklahoma Research Attraction Program (ORAP) created  
13 in Section 1 of this act. All monies accruing to the credit of the  
14 fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the  
15 State Regents for the purpose provided for in this section.  
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 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.  
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