

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 2061 By: Nice

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to food policy; creating the Oklahoma
8 Food Policy Council Act; providing short title;
9 defining terms; establishing membership of the
10 Oklahoma Food Policy Council; providing for
11 membership terms; providing for filling of vacancies;
12 requiring compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting
13 Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act; allowing for
14 reimbursement of certain expenses; providing for an
15 advisory and coordinating role to connect farmers,
16 community gardens, and local organizations; promoting
17 sustainable locally grown food and farm-to-school
18 initiatives; supporting producer-to-consumer access,
19 farmers markets, and agritourism; providing for
20 collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of
21 Agriculture, Food, and Forestry; requiring annual
22 reporting to the Governor and the Legislature;
23 providing for noncodification; providing for
24 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
20 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

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

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

4 As used in this act:

5 1. "Community garden" means any land cultivated by individuals
6 or groups for production of food for personal or local use or
7 community benefit;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 a. one member representing the Farm to School program who
2 shall serve an initial term of one (1) year,
3 b. one member representing local and county food security
4 initiatives who shall serve an initial term of two (2)
5 years, and
6 c. one member representing the State Department of Health
7 who shall serve an initial term of three (3) years;

8 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint three
9 members as follows:

10 a. one member from the Food Safety Division of the
11 Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
12 who shall serve an initial term of one (1) year,
13 b. one member who is an agricultural producer within this
14 state who shall serve an initial term of two (2)
15 years, and
16 c. one member representing conservation and sustainable
17 agricultural practices who shall serve an initial term
18 of three (3) years;

19 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
20 three members as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-3.8 of Title 2, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

8 2. Strengthen coordination between existing programs that
9 support sustainable food production, farm-to-schools initiatives,
10 and producer-to-consumer access;

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

15 4. Assess the utilization of urban gardens and community
16 gardens for the purpose of improving the health of citizens, and
17 allowing for the use of urban property; and

18 5. Connect producers of sustainable food to farmers markets in
19 the state.

20 B. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
21 may coordinate with the Council to identify any existing farmers
22 hubs, and promote collaboration between producers, community
23 gardens, local food banks or organizations, and local governments to

1 share best practices and resources to support the distribution of
2 sustainable food.

3 C. The Council shall electronically submit an annual report to
4 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives with any recommendations and
6 a summary of its findings.

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

8 9 60-2-2655

YG

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 1/15/2026 11:35:10 AM

21
22
23
24