

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 2073

By: Deevers

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; creating the Hire Oklahomans Act; providing short title; providing legislative findings; defining terms; prohibiting state entities from employing certain individuals; clarifying applicability; construing provision; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 847 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Hire Oklahomans Act".

B. The Legislature finds that:

1. Immigration classification and visa issuance are federal matters; however, Oklahoma public employment funded by Oklahoma taxpayers is a matter of state sovereignty;

1 2. No provision of federal law requires this state or its
2 political subdivisions to participate in discretionary federal visa
3 labor programs; and

4 3. This state has a compelling interest in prioritizing public
5 employment opportunities for its citizens.

6 C. For the purposes of this act:

7 1. "H-1B visa program" means employment authorized under
8 Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

9 2. "Optional practical training" means employment authorization
10 granted pursuant to federal regulations governing F-1 nonimmigrant
11 student status; and

12 3. "State entity" means any agency, board, commission,
13 department, authority, public trust, political subdivision, or
14 public institution of higher education of this state.

15 D. 1. No state entity shall employ any individual pursuant to
16 either the H-1B visa program or the optional practical training
17 authorization.

18 2. No state entity shall sponsor, petition for, renew, or
19 extend employment under the programs described in paragraph 1 of
20 this subsection.

21 E. This act shall apply only to:

22 1. Employment agreements entered into on or after the effective
23 date of this act; and
24

1 2. Renewals, extensions, or modifications of employment
2 agreements occurring on or after the effective date of this act.

3 F. Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair vested
4 contractual rights prior to the effective date of this act.

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

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

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