

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 3128

By: West (Kevin)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to labor, enacting the Actionable Response for Industry Skills and Excellence in Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK); describing legislative intent and purpose; defining terms; creating guidelines for Task Force members; creating guidelines for appointed members; describing duties; requiring reports; describing report deadlines; providing guidelines for compensation and reimbursement; requiring staffing and support; 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 not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. The Legislature finds that Oklahoma's long-term economic growth, business competitiveness, and workforce capacity depend upon strategic coordination between employers, education providers, workforce systems, and state agencies.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature to:

1. Identify barriers to workforce entry and participation;
2. Strengthen workforce pipelines in key industries;

1        3. Align education and training systems with employer needs;

2        4. Support apprenticeships, technical training, and career  
3 development;

4        5. Enhance Oklahoma's economic competitiveness through a  
5 modernized, responsive workforce system; and

6        6. Ensure recommendations are industry-driven, data-informed,  
7 and actionable.

8        SECTION 2.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 651 of Title 40, unless there is  
10 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11        A. There is hereby created the Actionable Response for Industry  
12 Skills and Excellence in Oklahoma Task Force (ARISE-OK).

13        B. The purpose of ARISE-OK is to evaluate statewide workforce  
14 readiness, identify barriers to employment, strengthen workforce  
15 pipelines, and advance strategies that support business growth and  
16 economic competitiveness.

17        SECTION 3.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 652 of Title 40, unless there is  
19 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20        For purposes of this act:

21        1. "Industry representative" means an individual employed by or  
22 affiliated with a private-sector business operating within the State  
23 of Oklahoma.

1        2. "Registered apprenticeship" means a program registered with  
2 the United States Department of Labor or the Oklahoma Office of  
3 Workforce Development.

4        3. "Task Force" or "ARISE-OK" means the Actionable Response for  
5 Industry Skills and Excellence Task Force created by this act.

6        4. "Workforce barriers" includes transportation, childcare,  
7 credentialing, reentry, housing, and other obstacles preventing  
8 workforce entry or retention.

9        SECTION 4.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 653 of Title 40, unless there is  
11 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12        A. The Task Force shall consist of the following voting  
13 members:

14        1. The Commissioner of Labor, who shall serve as Chair, or  
15 designee;

16        2. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security  
17 Commission, or designee;

18        3. The Executive Director of the Department of Commerce, or  
19 designee;

20        4. The State Director of Career and Technology Education, or  
21 designee;

22        5. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher  
23 Education, or designee; and

24        6. The Secretary of Agriculture, or designee.

1 B. The following shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members:

2 1. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Workforce Commission  
3 (OWC), or designee;

4 2. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Space Industry  
5 Development Authority (OSIDA), or designee;

6 3. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Center for the  
7 Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), or designee;

8 4. One (1) representative of the Oklahoma Tribal Finance  
9 Consortium (OTFC); and

10 5. The Lieutenant Governor, or designee.

11 C. In addition, the Task Force shall include eleven (11)  
12 appointed voting members as follows:

13 1. To be appointed by the Commissioner of Labor:

- 14 a. an apprenticeship or workforce training specialist,
- 15 b. a workforce training provider representative, and
- 16 c. a workforce barrier-reduction specialist;

17 2. To be appointed by the Governor:

- 18 a. an energy sector representative, and
- 19 b. a technology sector representative;

20 3. To be appointed by the Speaker of the House:

- 21 a. a constructive sector representative,
- 22 b. a manufacturing sector representative, and
- 23 c. a veteran or military-transition representative;

24 4. To be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate:

- a. an agriculture sector representative,
- b. a healthcare sector representative, and
- c. a statewide business or industry representative.

D. Members shall serve until the Task Force submits its final report, unless replaced by the appointing authority. The appointing authority has discretion to replace a member they appointed.

E. If any appointed member has not been selected by the designated appointing authority within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act, the Chair of the Task Force shall make the appointment to fill the vacancy. Such appointment shall serve until the appointing authority selects a member or until the Task Force submits its final report, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 654 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Task Force shall:

1. Evaluate Oklahoma's workforce readiness and talent shortages across all industry sectors;
2. Identify regulatory, statutory, and practical barriers to employment;
3. Recommend strategies to strengthen workforce training, apprenticeships, Career and Technical Education, education alignment, and employer participation;

1       4. Study workforce challenges within agriculture,  
2 manufacturing, energy, construction, healthcare, technology, and  
3 veteran transition sectors;

4       5. Engage rural, urban, and veteran communities to ensure  
5 statewide workforce responsiveness;

6       6. Coordinate studies and data requests within the Oklahoma  
7 Workforce Commission to avoid duplication and ensure complementary  
8 efforts;

9       7. Provide statutory and administrative recommendations to  
10 improve workforce effectiveness and business competitiveness;

11       8. Address workforce challenges not explicitly within OWC's  
12 statutory mission, including cross-sector coordination, long-term  
13 strategic workforce policy, and structural barriers; and

14       9. Leverage expertise from ex officio members for emerging  
15 industries and workforce insights.

16       SECTION 6.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 655 of Title 40, unless there is  
18 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19       A. The Task Force shall submit the following written reports of  
20 findings and legislative recommendations annually, as follows:

- 21       1. Interim Report by December 1, 2027;
- 22       2. Second Report by December 1, 2028; and
- 23       3. Final Report by December 1, 2029.

24       B. Each report shall be submitted to:

1. The Governor;
2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives;
4. The Oklahoma Workforce Commission; and
5. The public via an online posting by the Department of Labor.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 656 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Members who are state employees shall receive no additional compensation for duties performed under this act.

B. Legislative or appointed members who are not state employees may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, subject to available funds.

C. No member shall receive a stipend or per diem for service on the Task Force.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 657 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Department of Labor shall provide staff support, meeting coordination, report posting, and administrative assistance to the Task Force.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 658 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. The Task Force shall terminate on December 31, 2029, unless  
2 continued by an act of the Legislature enacted no later than the  
3 2029 Regular Session.

4       B. Prior to termination, the Task Force shall submit its final  
5 report, and the Legislature may extend, modify, or continue the Task  
6 Force through subsequent legislation.

7       SECTION 10. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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