

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB3403
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Request Number:	16837
Author:	Rep. Patzkowsky
Date:	3/3/2026
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The proposed committee substitute to HB 3403 creates the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research "Pilot Program". This measure requires the pilot program to be created at Oklahoma State University (OSU). Additionally, this measure requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to administer the pilot program in cooperation with the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in coordination with the OSU College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, the OSU Department of Environmental Science, and the Cooperative Extension Service. The initial term for the pilot program is five years.

The measure requires the pilot program to:

- Identify and approve study plots on agricultural lands;
- Develop biosolids application protocols;
- Conduct agronomic research;
- Conduct environmental impact studies;
- Assess regulatory models for best management practices, permitting options, and suitable compliance structures;
- Coordinate with DEQ to utilize biosolids from Oklahoma municipal wastewater treatment facilities that meet DEQ and EPA standards; and
- Provide outreach and education to Oklahomans through OSU Extension programs.

This measure requires the pilot program to provide the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Pro Tem, and DEQ an annual report detailing its findings and recommendations. This measure permits and provides guidelines for OSU to partner with private landowners to participate in pilot program research trials. Biosolids applied during the pilot program are exempt from state permitting rules only to the extent necessary to conduct controlled research and only when research protocols meet or exceed DEQ and EPA requirements. Additionally, this measure allows the pilot program to be funded through legislative appropriations, federal research grants, municipal contributions, private or industry partnerships, or in-kind contributions of biosolids or laboratory services. Finally, this measure creates the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Fund.

Prepared By: Douglas Amos, House Research Staff

Fiscal Analysis

The proposed committee substitute to HB 3403 establishes the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot Program to be administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in partnership with Oklahoma State University (OSU). The measure creates a

revolving fund for the program, but does not appropriate any dedicated state funding to the program. Per DEQ, the agency would be able to administer the pilot program as written using existing agency budgetary resources; thus, this measure would have no direct fiscal impact to FY-27 state budgetary resources.

Prepared By: Jay St Clair, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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