

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 4344

By: Moore

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; amending 62 O.S. 2021, Section 34.53, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 84, O.S.L. 2025 (62 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 34.53), which relates to the Oklahoma State Finance Act; permitting the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to reduce allocations in order to make payments for annual obligations; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 62 O.S. 2021, Section 34.53, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 84, O.S.L. 2025 (62 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 34.53), is amended to read as follows:

Section 34.53. A. 1. The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, established by Article XIII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution, shall operate an allotment system similar to the procedure set out in the Oklahoma State Finance Act for other agencies of the state except that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be substituted for the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services in connection with approving

1 allotment requests of the constituent institutions comprising The  
2 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

3 2. The account classification for the State System of Higher  
4 Education shall conform as nearly as possible with the  
5 classification of accounts recommended by the National Committee on  
6 Standard Reports for Institutions of Higher Education.

7 3. The Board of Regents shall allocate to each institution  
8 under its control from the consolidated, or lump sum appropriation  
9 made by the Legislature, an amount sufficient to meet the needs and  
10 functions of each institution for the entire year.

11 4. The amount allocated to each institution for each fiscal  
12 year in accordance with Article XIII-A of the Oklahoma Constitution,  
13 shall be made in a lump sum without regard to uniform budget or  
14 accounting classifications, but shall not be available for  
15 expenditure until subsequently allotted by the Regents in accordance  
16 with the uniform budget and accounting classifications recommended  
17 by the National Committee on Standard Reports.

18 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may reduce  
19 the allocation of funds which could otherwise be made to an  
20 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in  
21 order to make payments for leases within the lease financing program  
22 authorized by Section 3206.6a of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes  
23 or for annual obligations authorized by subsection D of Section  
24 3980.4 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

1 C. 1. The Regents, with the approval of the Director of the  
2 Office of Management and Enterprise Services, may allot money to any  
3 constituent institution to set up and operate a petty cash fund at  
4 such institution. Such petty cash fund shall be reimbursed upon the  
5 filing of claims showing the purposes for which the funds were  
6 expended.

7 2. The Division of Central Accounting and Reporting shall make  
8 cash allocations of revenue in accordance with Section 23 of Article  
9 X of the Oklahoma Constitution, to each of the constituent  
10 institutions. These cash allocations shall be based on the  
11 allocations made by the Regents to each institution from the lump  
12 sum legislative appropriations and such allocation shall be the  
13 total appropriation for each institution, in lieu of legislative  
14 appropriations.

15 3. After these funds have been allocated and allotted as  
16 provided in this section, all institutional income shall operate as  
17 a continuing nonfiscal appropriation which may be spent for any  
18 educational and general purposes for which appropriated funds may be  
19 spent. "Institutional income" for such purposes shall mean all  
20 income available for educational and general purposes, as defined in  
21 the uniform budget and accounting classifications recommended by the  
22 National Committee on Standard Reports, and including income defined  
23 by law as revolving fund income. Expenditures shall be limited to  
24 the extent that obligations as they are incurred may not exceed the

1 unencumbered balance of cash on hand in accordance with Section 23  
2 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

3 D. 1. At least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of each  
4 fiscal year, each of the constituent institutions shall file with  
5 the Regents its request for appropriation allotments for each of the  
6 purposes for which expenditures are to be made.

7 2. Such requests shall be broken down to conform to the uniform  
8 budget or accounting classifications recommended by the National  
9 Committee on Standard Reports.

10 3. Each institution's request for appropriation allotments  
11 shall show the amount required to finance each item of the request  
12 for the entire year and for each quarter or each six-month period  
13 within the fiscal year, as required by the Director of the Office of  
14 Management and Enterprise Services.

15 E. The Regents, or the official or employee who has been  
16 authorized to approve itemized allotment requests, shall consider  
17 the allotment requests for the purpose of making a determination  
18 whether:

19 1. The current financial requirements of the institution  
20 concerned justify the allotment to be made;

21 2. The accounting classification is sufficient to reflect the  
22 purpose for which expenditures are to be made and that such  
23 classification is in accordance with the budget classifications  
24 adopted by the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise

1 Services and the Regents, which shall conform as nearly as possible  
2 to the account classification recommended by the National Committee  
3 on Standard Reports for Institutions of Higher Education; and

4 3. The realization of estimated revenues determined by the  
5 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services is  
6 sufficient to allow the commitments to be made.

7 F. 1. In allotting appropriations and other funds, and  
8 approving subsequent allotments which may be required by each  
9 institution, the Regents shall follow the same general procedure set  
10 forth in the Oklahoma State Finance Act for other agencies of the  
11 state not under the control of the Regents, except as otherwise  
12 provided in this section.

13 2. All forms and account classifications shall be mutually  
14 agreed upon by the Director of the Office of Management and  
15 Enterprise Services and the State Regents.

16 3. The Regents shall file approved requests of constituent  
17 institutions with the Division of Central Accounting and Reporting  
18 and such requests shall be entered on the records of the Office of  
19 Management and Enterprise Services in the same manner as is provided  
20 in the Oklahoma State Finance Act for other agencies of the state.

21 4. The State Regents and the Director of the Office of  
22 Management and Enterprise Services shall approve any request from  
23 the administrative head of a constituent institution for amendment  
24 of the approved schedule of positions and salaries, or transfers

1 between items, so long as the currently approved allotment for such  
2 purposes is not exceeded. Each such amendment shall be filed with  
3 the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, in such detail as  
4 may be required, prior to the date on which the first payroll or  
5 other disbursement affected by such amendment or transfer is  
6 submitted for payment.

7 G. 1. In the event that the realization of estimated revenues  
8 at any time during the fiscal year indicates that the total revenue  
9 for that fiscal year to any state fund will be insufficient at the  
10 end of the fiscal year to meet the total appropriations from that  
11 fund, the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise  
12 Services shall notify the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
13 Education as to the amount of reduction necessary against the  
14 consolidated, or lump sum appropriations, made to the Regents.

15 2. The Regents, in making itemized allotments during the fiscal  
16 year, may reserve an amount sufficient to meet a reasonable failure  
17 of revenue until receipt of notice from the Director of the Office  
18 of Management and Enterprise Services that the realization of  
19 estimated revenues indicates that the total appropriation may be  
20 allotted for expenditure. Upon receipt of notice from the Director  
21 of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services of a necessary  
22 reduction in the consolidated, or lump sum appropriation, to meet a  
23 failure in revenue, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
24 shall immediately take action to control the approval of subsequent

1 allotment requests sufficient to make the aggregate reduction in  
2 allotments of all constituent institutions under their control equal  
3 the amount of reduction ordered against the lump sum appropriation  
4 made by the Legislature. Such reductions against the lump sum  
5 appropriation shall not exceed the percentage reduction ordered  
6 against other agencies of the state in accordance with Section 23 of  
7 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

9  
10 60-2-15457 AQH 12/30/25  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24