

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 3709

By: Caldwell (Chad)

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; requiring state  
8 educational institutions fund a general maintenance  
9 fund when constructing new buildings; providing  
10 permissible uses for a general maintenance fund;  
11 directing the State Regents for Higher Education to  
12 withhold state-appropriated funds for failure to  
13 comply; requiring the State Regents to conduct annual  
14 audits for compliance; providing for codification;  
15 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
16 emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4316 of Title 70, unless there  
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. Any state educational institution within The Oklahoma State  
19 System of Higher Education that constructs any building shall place  
20 an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total construction costs  
21 in a general maintenance fund maintained by the state educational  
22 institution.

23 B. The general maintenance fund shall be utilized for general  
24 upkeep or maintenance of buildings owned by the state educational

1 institution. The funds placed in the general maintenance fund shall  
2 not be limited or earmarked for the new construction which caused  
3 the funds to be placed in the fund.

4 C. The funds required to be placed in a general maintenance  
5 fund by subsection A of this section shall be in addition to all  
6 other funds the state educational institution already allocates to a  
7 general maintenance fund and shall not supplant or replace existing  
8 funding levels.

9 D. The State Regents for Higher Education shall withhold all  
10 state-appropriated funds from any state educational institution  
11 which fails to comply with subsection A of this section until the  
12 state educational institution comes into compliance with subsection  
13 A of this section. The State Regents shall conduct annual audits of  
14 state educational institutions to ensure compliance with this  
15 section.

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

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

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