

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1771

By: Thompson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Workforce Commission; amending Section 5, Chapter 361, O.S.L. 2023, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 408, O.S.L. 2025 (40 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 904), which relates to the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Commission; permitting the Commission to collect certain data; authorizing the Commission to employ outside counsel; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 361, O.S.L. 2023, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 408, O.S.L. 2025 (40 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 904), is amended to read as follows:

Section 904. The Oklahoma Workforce Commission shall have the following powers, duties, and responsibilities:

1. To administer the provisions of the Oklahoma Workforce Transformation Act or any duty as directed by statute;
2. To establish an office for the Commission within this state;
3. To elect whatever other officers may be necessary to direct operations of the Commission;

1 4. To employ or contract for personnel and administrative
2 support as the Commission deems appropriate to carry out the purpose
3 and provisions of the Oklahoma Workforce Transformation Act,
4 including, but not limited to, a nonprofit corporation to carry out
5 the Commission's objectives, an executive director or other chief
6 executive officer, and any other employees or contractors the
7 Commission deems appropriate, and to prescribe their duties and fix
8 their compensation;

9 5. To administer the Workforce Coordination Revolving Fund
10 created in Section 255.4 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

11 6. To administer the Oklahoma Workforce Commission Revolving
12 Fund created in Section 3 of this act;

13 7. To approve or disapprove the budget of the Commission;

14 8. To promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of the
15 Oklahoma Workforce Transformation Act;

16 9. To enter into contracts or agreements for studies,
17 professional services, grant administration and procurement,
18 research projects, supplies, or any other services the Commission
19 deems necessary to carry out its purpose, and to incur those
20 expenses necessary to carry out those purposes;

21 10. To cooperate with any private, local, state, or national
22 commission, organization, agency, or group and to make contracts and
23 agreements for joint programs beneficial to Oklahoma's workforce
24 development efforts;

1 11. To accept donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from
2 any public or private source and deposit such in the Oklahoma
3 Workforce Commission Revolving Fund, created in Section 3 of this
4 act;

5 12. To oversee and direct to the extent permitted by law the
6 activities and administration of the Governor's Council for
7 Workforce and Economic Development, including, but not limited to,
8 the creation and submission of state plans to the federal government
9 pursuant to the provisions of the Workforce Innovation and
10 Opportunity Act;

11 13. To collect data from federal, state, and local agencies,
12 departments, educational institutions, boards, commissions, or any
13 other entities including, but not limited to:

- 14 a. number of participants in workforce development
- 15 programming,
- 16 b. cost per participant,
- 17 c. wages before and after participation in programs,
- 18 d. degree or certificate conferred on each participant,
- 19 e. number of jobs open needing degrees or certificates,
- 20 f. labor force and economic information, ~~and~~
- 21 g. funds allocated for the purpose of workforce
- 22 development,
- 23 h. expenditures made for the purpose of workforce
- 24 development,

1 i. performance data, and

2 j. any other information the Commission deems appropriate
3 to guide funding decisions, facilitate its work or the
4 work of workforce development entities in the state,
5 or to understand the impact of the state's workforce
6 efforts and programming;

7 14. To create and maintain a public dashboard and create
8 reports with data concerning workforce development efforts in the
9 state. All state and local agencies, departments, educational
10 institutions, boards, commissions, and other public entities shall
11 cooperate with information and data requests from the Commission or
12 its designees. The Oklahoma Workforce Commission shall serve as the
13 centralized data and information repository for workforce
14 development activities for the state;

15 15. To make recommendations to the Legislature to improve
16 workforce development programs in the state;

17 16. To implement programs designed to expand workforce
18 development; ~~and~~

19 17. To work with, use and provide data the legislatively
20 created map developed to help make decisions on economic development
21 and workforce needs in the state; and

22 18. To employ counsel through an outside law firm, to advise or
23 represent the Commission on the performance of its official duties.

1 Counsel employed pursuant to this section shall be compensated from
2 the funds of the Commission.

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