

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1869

By: Standridge

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Educational  
8 Television Authority; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections  
9 23-105, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 296, O.S.L.  
10 2023, 23-106, as amended by Section 574, Chapter 486,  
11 O.S.L. 2025, and 23-118 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Sections  
12 23-105 and 23-106), which relate to the Oklahoma  
13 Educational Television Authority; removing certain  
14 essentiality of the Authority; altering certain  
15 powers of the Authority; prohibiting the Authority  
16 from charging certain fee for certain programs;  
17 prohibiting transfer of appropriated monies to the  
18 Authority; directing transfer of certain funds to the  
19 Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund; transferring  
20 certain facilities to the Office of Management and  
21 Enterprise Services; authorizing the Office of  
22 Management and Enterprise Services to lease certain  
23 facilities to the Authority; creating the Healthy  
24 Parks Healthy Minds Fund; repealing 70 O.S. 2021,  
25 Sections 23-101, 23-107, 23-108, 23-109, 23-110, 23-  
26 111, 23-112, 23-113, 23-114, 23-115, 23-116, 23-117,  
27 23-120, 23-121, 23-122, 23-123, 23-124, and 23-126,  
28 which relate to the Oklahoma Educational Television  
29 Authority; providing for codification; providing an  
30 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

32 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-105, as

33 amended by Section 1, Chapter 296, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,

34 Section 23-105), is amended to read as follows:

1       Section 23-105. There is hereby re-created, to continue until  
2 July 1, 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma  
3 Sunset Law, Section 3901 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
4 Statutes, a body corporate and politic to be known as the "Oklahoma  
5 Educational Television Authority", and by that name the Authority  
6 may sue and be sued, and plead and be impleaded. ~~The Authority is~~  
7 ~~hereby constituted an instrumentality of the state, and the exercise~~  
8 ~~by the Authority of the powers conferred by this article for the~~  
9 ~~planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of educational~~  
10 ~~television facilities shall be deemed and held to be an essential~~  
11 ~~function of the state.~~

12       The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority shall consist of  
13 thirteen (13) members, including the President of the University of  
14 Oklahoma, the President of Oklahoma State University, the State  
15 Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the Oklahoma  
16 State Regents for Higher Education, the president of one of the  
17 state-supported four-year colleges to be chosen by the presidents of  
18 this group of institutions, the president of one of the state-  
19 supported two-year colleges to be chosen by the presidents of this  
20 group of institutions, and seven additional members to be appointed  
21 by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve  
22 seven-year terms.

23       The appointed members shall have been residents of the state for  
24 at least five (5) years preceding the date of their appointment.

1 The appointed members shall include one member from each of the  
2 congressional districts and any remaining members shall be appointed  
3 from the state at large. However, when congressional districts are  
4 redrawn each member appointed prior to July 1 of the year in which  
5 such modification becomes effective shall complete the current term  
6 of office and appointments made after July 1 of the year in which  
7 such modification becomes effective shall be based on the redrawn  
8 districts. Appointments made after July 1 of the year in which such  
9 modification becomes effective shall be from any redrawn districts  
10 which are not represented by an authority member until such time as  
11 each of the modified congressional districts are represented by an  
12 authority member. A majority of the appointed members shall be  
13 actively engaged in the profession of education. Each appointed  
14 member of the Authority, before entering upon the duties of the  
15 member, shall take the oath provided for by Section 1 of Article XV  
16 of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma.

17 The seven original members appointed by the Governor shall  
18 continue in office for terms expiring on June 30, 1954; June 30,  
19 1955; June 30, 1956; June 30, 1957; June 30, 1958; June 30, 1959;  
20 and June 30, 1960, respectively. The terms of each of the original  
21 appointed members shall be designated by the Governor, and said  
22 members shall serve for their appointed terms and until their  
23 respective successors shall be appointed and qualified. The  
24 successor of each appointed member shall be appointed for a term of

1      seven (7) years, except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy  
2      shall be appointed to serve only for the unexpired term in said  
3      vacancy.

4              The Authority shall elect from the membership of the Authority a  
5      chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary-treasurer. Any such officers  
6      elected by the Authority on or after July 1, 1984, shall be  
7      appointed to serve a term of one (1) year. Seven members of the  
8      Authority shall constitute a quorum, and the vote of seven members  
9      shall be necessary for any action taken by the Authority. No  
10     vacancy in the membership of the Authority shall impair the right of  
11     a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of  
12     the Authority. The Authority shall meet at least quarterly.

13              The members of the Authority shall not be entitled to  
14     compensation for their services, but each member shall be reimbursed  
15     for travel expenses incurred in performing official duties in  
16     accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement  
17     Act. No liability or obligation shall be incurred by the Authority  
18     beyond the extent to which monies shall have been provided pursuant  
19     to the authority of this article.

20              SECTION 2.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-106, as  
21     amended by Section 574, Chapter 486, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.  
22     2025, Section 23-106), is amended to read as follows:

23              Section 23-106. The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority  
24     is hereby authorized and empowered:

1       1. To accept, assume, and control the television channels  
2 assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the State of  
3 Oklahoma for educational purposes;

4       2. To adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the  
5 conduct of its business;

6       3. To adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

7       4. To maintain an office at such place or places within the  
8 state as ~~it may designate~~ designated by the Office of Management and  
9 Enterprise Services;

10       5. To sue and be sued in its own name, plead and be impleaded;  
11 provided, however, that any and all actions, at law or in equity,  
12 against the Authority shall be brought in the county in which the  
13 principal office of the Authority shall be located, or in the county  
14 of the residence of the plaintiff, or in the county where the cause  
15 of action arose;

16       6. To ~~construct, maintain, repair and~~ operate television  
17 facilities which with their access connections are designated  
18 ultimately to extend to and include all sections and areas of the  
19 State of Oklahoma;

20       7. ~~To issue revenue bonds of the Authority, payable solely from~~  
21 ~~dedicated revenues, for the purpose of paying all or any part of the~~  
22 ~~cost of needed facilities;~~

23       8. ~~To fix and revise from time to time any necessary charges~~  
24 ~~for the use of any facilities;~~

1       9. To pay for the annual cost of the operation, maintenance and  
2       repair of such facilities;

3       10. To pay as and when due the principal and interest on the  
4       revenue certificates or bonds issued to pay for such facilities;

5       11. To accumulate and maintain such reserves as are provided  
6       for in the resolution or trust indenture under which such bonds are  
7       issued or secured;

8       12. To acquire, hold, or dispose of real and personal property  
9       in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties  
10      under this act;

11      13. To acquire in the name of the Authority by purchase or  
12      otherwise, on such terms and conditions and in such manner as it may  
13      deem proper, or by the exercise of the right of condemnation in  
14      manner hereinafter provided, such public or private lands, rights-  
15      of-way, property, rights, easements, and interests, as it may deem  
16      necessary for carrying out the provisions of this article; and it is  
17      the intent of the Legislature that all public property damaged in  
18      carrying out the powers granted by this article shall be restored or  
19      repaired and placed in its original condition as nearly as  
20      practicable;

21      14. To designate, except as is provided for herein, the  
22      locations; and to establish, limit and control such points of  
23      ingress to and egress from each facility as may be necessary or  
24

1 desirable in the judgment of the Authority to insure the proper  
2 operation ~~and maintenance~~ of such facility;

3       15. 8. To make and enter into all contracts and agreements  
4 necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the  
5 execution of its powers under this article, and to employ consulting  
6 engineers, attorneys, accountants, construction and financial  
7 experts, superintendents, managers, and such other employees and  
8 agents as may be necessary in its judgment, and to fix their  
9 compensation;

10       16. ~~To receive appropriations from the State Legislature and~~  
11 ~~accept from any federal agency grants for or in aid of the~~  
12 ~~construction and operation of any project; provided, the acceptance~~  
13 ~~of such grants or appropriations will not reduce the amount of~~  
14 ~~federal aid for other education in this state; and to receive and~~  
15 ~~accept aid or contributions from any source of either money,~~  
16 ~~property, labor, or other things of value;~~

17       17. 9. To do any and all things necessary to comply with rules,  
18 regulations, or requirements of the Federal Communications  
19 Commission or any other federal agency administering any law enacted  
20 by the Congress of the United States to aid or encourage education;  
21 and

22       18. 10. To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out  
23 the powers expressly granted in this article.

1       It shall be unlawful for any member, officer, or employee of the  
2 Authority to transact with the Authority, either directly or  
3 indirectly, any business for profit of such member, officer, or  
4 employee; and any person, firm or corporation knowingly  
5 participating therein shall be equally liable for violation of this  
6 provision.

7       The term "business for profit" shall include, but not be limited  
8 to, the acceptance or payment of any fee, commission, gift or  
9 consideration to such member, officer, or employee.

10      Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of  
11 this section shall be guilty of a Class D1 felony offense, and shall  
12 be punishable by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars  
13 (\$500.00), and not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or  
14 by imprisonment as provided for in subsections B through F of  
15 Section 20N of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or by both such  
16 fine and imprisonment.

17      SECTION 3.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-118, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19      Section 23-118. ~~Each project when constructed and placed in use~~  
20 ~~shall be maintained and kept in good condition and repair by the~~  
21 ~~Authority. When all bonds issued under the provisions of this~~  
22 ~~article in connection with any project and the interest thereon~~  
23 ~~shall have been paid or a sufficient amount for the payment of all~~  
24 ~~such bonds and the interest thereon to the maturity thereof shall~~

1 have been set aside in trust for the benefit of the bondholders,  
2 such project, if then in good condition and repair to the  
3 satisfaction of the State Legislature, shall become part of the  
4 State Educational System.

5 A. All counties, cities, towns, municipalities and, school  
6 districts of the state and all, institutions of higher education,  
7 state boards, commissions, officials, and other public agencies,  
8 notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, are hereby authorized  
9 and empowered:

10 1. To lease, lend, grant or convey to the Authority at its  
11 request upon such terms and conditions as the proper authorities of  
12 such counties, cities, towns, municipalities, school districts of  
13 the state, and all state boards, commissions, officials and other  
14 public agencies may deem reasonable and fair and without the  
15 necessity for any advertisement, order of court or other action or  
16 formality other than the regular and formal action of the  
17 authorities concerned, any personal property, real property and  
18 other things of value which may be necessary or convenient to the  
19 effectuation of the authorized purposes of the Authority, including  
20 real property already devoted to public use; and

21 2. To lease, rent or contract to receive from the Authority,  
22 for telecasting purposes, any programs that would be beneficial to  
23 their interest and that of the State of Oklahoma. The Authority  
24 shall not charge a fee for such programs.

1       B. No counties, cities, towns, municipalities, school  
2 districts, institutions of higher education, state boards,  
3 commissions, officials, or other public agencies shall transfer to  
4 the Authority any monies that have previously been appropriated by  
5 this state to such entities.

6       SECTION 4.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
7       in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 23-127 of Title 70, unless there  
8       is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9       On the effective date of this act, all remaining funds and  
10      monies to the credit of or in the possession of the Oklahoma  
11      Educational Television Authority that were previously appropriated  
12      by this state in fiscal year 2026 and earlier shall be transferred  
13      into the Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund, as provided for in  
14      Section 6 of this act.

15      SECTION 5.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
16      in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 23-128 of Title 70, unless there  
17      is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18       All facilities of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority,  
19       as defined in Section 23-104 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
20       shall be transferred to the Office of Management and Enterprise  
21       Services (OMES). OMES shall lease such facilities to the Oklahoma  
22       Educational Television Authority, with the proceeds of such leases  
23       to be deposited in the Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund, as provided  
24       for in Section 6 of this act.

1 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2295 of Title 74, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
5 for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to be designated  
6 the "Healthy Parks Healthy Minds Fund". The fund shall be a  
7 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall  
8 consist of all monies received by the Department from transfers from  
9 the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, as provided for in  
10 Section 4 of this act, and all monies received by the Office of  
11 Management and Enterprise Services from leasing such facilities, as  
12 provided for in Section 5 of this act. All monies accruing to the  
13 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and  
14 expended by the Department for the maintenance of transferred  
15 facilities and the improvement and maintenance of state parks.  
16 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the  
17 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the  
18 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for  
19 approval and payment.

20 SECTION 7. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-101, is  
21 hereby repealed.

22 SECTION 8. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-107, is  
23 hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 9. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-108, is  
2 hereby repealed.

3 SECTION 10. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-109, is  
4 hereby repealed.

5 SECTION 11. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-110, is  
6 hereby repealed.

7 SECTION 12. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-111, is  
8 hereby repealed.

9 SECTION 13. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-112, is  
10 hereby repealed.

11 SECTION 14. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-113, is  
12 hereby repealed.

13 SECTION 15. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-114, is  
14 hereby repealed.

15 SECTION 16. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-115, is  
16 hereby repealed.

17 SECTION 17. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-116, is  
18 hereby repealed.

19 SECTION 18. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-117, is  
20 hereby repealed.

21 SECTION 19. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-120, is  
22 hereby repealed.

23 SECTION 20. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-121, is  
24 hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 21. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-122, is  
2 hereby repealed.

3 SECTION 22. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-123, is  
4 hereby repealed.

5 SECTION 23. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-124, is  
6 hereby repealed.

7 SECTION 24. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2021, Section 23-126, is  
8 hereby repealed.

9 SECTION 25. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

10 SECTION 26. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
11 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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