

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 954

By: Daniels

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to education; defining terms; prohibiting discrimination on certain basis against students or employees in an institution of higher education or public school; prohibiting persons from being excluded, denied benefits, or discriminated against on certain basis; prohibiting criteria for admission to an institution of higher education course or program from restricting access to certain persons; providing certain exceptions; directing certain services to be available to all students; directing all education programs, activities, and opportunities offered by institutions of higher education and public schools to be made available without certain discrimination; directing institutions of higher education and public schools to integrate certain definition into certain codes of conduct; prohibiting certain conduct; directing institutions of higher education and public schools to treat certain harassment and discrimination in certain manner; providing evidence of antisemitic intent; encouraging institutions of higher education and public schools to incorporate certain training and integrate certain curriculum; providing certain construction; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW

2 A new section of law to be codified
3 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-162 of Title 70, unless there
4 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

5 A. As used in this section:

6 1. "Antisemitism" means a certain perception of Jews, which may
7 be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical
8 manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-
9 Jewish individuals or their properties, Jewish community
10 institutions, and Jewish religious facilities. Antisemitism does
11 not mean criticism of Israel that is similar to criticism toward any
12 other country. The provisions of this paragraph shall include any
13 amendments adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance
14 Alliance;

15 2. "Institution of higher education" means an institution of
16 higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
17 Education; and

18 3. "Public school" shall have the same meaning as provided for
19 in Section 1-106 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

20 B. Discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national
21 origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status against a
22 student or an employee in an institution of higher education or a
23 public school in this state shall be prohibited. No person in this
24 state shall, on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex,
25 disability, religion, or marital status, be excluded from

1 participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to
2 discrimination under any institution of higher education or public
3 school program or activity or in any employment conditions or
4 practices conducted by an institution of higher education or a
5 public school that receives or benefits from federal or state
6 financial assistance.

7 C. The criteria for admission to a program or course at an
8 institution of higher education shall not have the effect of
9 restricting access by persons of a particular race, ethnicity,
10 national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status.

11 D. All institution of higher education and public school
12 classes shall be available to all students without regard to race,
13 ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital
14 status. Provided, however, the provisions of this subsection shall
15 not prohibit the provision of programs designed to meet the needs of
16 students with limited proficiency in English, gifted students, or
17 students with disabilities or programs tailored to students with
18 specialized talents or skills.

19 E. Guidance, counseling, and financial assistance services in
20 institutions of higher education and public schools shall be
21 available to all students equally and provided in the same manner
22 regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability,
23 religion, or marital status.

1 F. All education programs, activities, and opportunities
2 offered by institutions of higher education and public schools shall
3 be made available without discrimination on the basis of race,
4 ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital
5 status.

6 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-163 of Title 70, unless there
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. Institutions of higher education and public schools shall
10 integrate the definition of antisemitism provided for in Section 1
11 of this act into their student, faculty, and employee codes of
12 conduct with penalties for violations identical to racism and
13 prohibit such conduct at or by the institution and public school.
14 Prohibited conduct as it specifically relates to antisemitism shall
15 be incorporated and include harassing conduct and discrimination
16 against Jews.

17 B. Institutions of higher education and public schools shall
18 treat harassment of or discrimination against students or employees
19 or resulting from institutional policies or programs on their
20 campuses motivated by or including antisemitic intent in an
21 identical manner to discrimination motivated by race.

22 C. Evidence of antisemitic intent shall include, but not be
23 limited to:
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1 1. Encouraging, supporting, praising, participating in, or
2 threatening violence or vandalism against Jews or Jewish property;

3 2. Praising designated terrorist groups such as Hamas or any
4 group or individual calling for the genocide or killing of Jews;

5 3. Wearing masks to conceal one's identity with the intent to
6 demonstrate in general including, but not limited to, harassing or
7 discriminating against Jewish or other students, faculty, and
8 employees on campus property;

9 4. Participating in or supporting the boycott, divestment, or
10 sanctions of Israeli companies, institutions, or individuals
11 including by any institution of higher education endowment;

12 5. Allowing or participating in antisemitic events, such as
13 encampments, lock-ins, walk-outs, or similar demonstrations on
14 campus property when such events intimidate, harass, or otherwise
15 violate Title VI protections provided for Jewish students. Students
16 who participate in such events and miss class as a result shall
17 receive unexcused absences and failure grades for any assignments or
18 examinations taking place on such dates of participation; or

19 6. Incorporating or allowing funding of antisemitic curriculum
20 or activity in any domestic or study abroad programs or classes.

21 D. All institutions of higher education and public schools are
22 encouraged to:

23 1. Incorporate antisemitism awareness training for all
24 students, faculty, administrators, and campus police; and
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1 2. Integrate Jewish American heritage curriculum for students
2 that incorporates Jewish experiences in the United States of America
3 pre- and post-revolution, pre- and post-World War II and the
4 Holocaust, and in modern times.

5 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-164 of Title 70, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
9 State Board of Education shall monitor, assess, and report on the
10 performance of institutions of higher education, public school
11 districts, and public schools with antisemitic activity. If the
12 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of
13 Education, after reasonable investigation, determines that the
14 institution of higher education, public school district, or
15 individual public school has engaged in, allowed, or not
16 sufficiently disciplined prohibited antisemitic activity, the
17 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of
18 Education shall give written notice to the institution of higher
19 education, public school district, or individual public school to
20 address its concerns no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of
21 the notice.

22 B. If the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the
23 State Board of Education determines the institution of higher
24 education, public school district, or individual public school has
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1 not taken necessary actions by the expiration of the thirty-day
2 period, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
3 immediately report same to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
4 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Legislature
5 shall impose at least a one-percent reduction in funding against the
6 institution of higher education or the public school district. The
7 Legislature may impose additional punitive actions as it deems
8 necessary.

9 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-165 of Title 70, unless there
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. Nothing in this act shall be construed to diminish or
13 infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the
14 United States Constitution or Section 22 of Article II of the
15 Oklahoma Constitution.

16 B. Nothing in this act shall be construed to conflict with
17 federal or state discrimination laws.

18 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

19 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
20 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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