

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 532

By: Pugh

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; creating the  
8 Workforce Development Revolving Fund; specifying  
9 source of fund; providing for expenditures; providing  
10 purpose of fund; directing appropriation to fund for  
11 certain fiscal year; directing the Oklahoma State  
12 Regents for Higher Education to award funds to  
13 certain institutions; defining term; providing method  
14 for distribution of funds beginning in certain  
15 academic year; directing certain biennial  
16 calculation; providing for codification; providing an  
17 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3210.1 of Title 70, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving  
23 fund for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to be  
24 designated the "Workforce Development Revolving Fund". The fund  
shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,  
and shall consist of all monies received by the State Regents from  
state appropriations. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund

1 are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the  
2 State Regents for the purpose of implementing the provisions of  
3 subsection C of this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be  
4 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims  
5 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of  
6 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

7 B. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, the Legislature  
8 shall appropriate Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) to the  
9 Workforce Development Revolving Fund created pursuant to subsection  
10 A of this section.

11 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall award  
12 funds from the Workforce Development Revolving Fund created pursuant  
13 to subsection A of this section to institutions within The Oklahoma  
14 State System of Higher Education that increase the number of degrees  
15 granted to fulfill workforce needs in critical occupation areas.  
16 For the purposes of this section "critical occupation areas" are  
17 those areas identified by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma  
18 Department of Commerce that are in high demand and are projected to  
19 have positive future growth.

20 D. 1. One-third of the funds appropriated pursuant to  
21 subsection B of this section shall be allocated to institutions  
22 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that increase  
23 the number of degrees granted in the area of nursing. The increase  
24 in the number of degrees shall be calculated based on the number of

1 degrees granted in the area of nursing during the 2020-2021, 2021-  
2 2022, and 2022-2023 academic years.

3 2. One-third of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection B  
4 of this section shall be allocated to institutions within The  
5 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that increase the number  
6 of degrees granted in the area of engineering. The increase in the  
7 number of degrees shall be calculated based on the number of degrees  
8 granted in the area of engineering during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022,  
9 and 2022-2023 academic years.

10 3. One-third of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection B  
11 of this section shall be allocated to institutions within The  
12 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that increase the number  
13 of degrees granted in the area of teaching. The increase in the  
14 number of degrees shall be calculated based on the number of degrees  
15 granted in the area of teaching during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and  
16 2022-2023 academic years.

17 E. 1. Beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, the Oklahoma  
18 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Workforce  
19 Development Revolving Fund created pursuant to subsection A of this  
20 section an amount equal to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for  
21 each degree in the areas of nursing, engineering, and teaching  
22 granted by an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
23 Education above the average number of degrees granted by each  
24

1 institution in the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 academic  
2 years.

3 2. Beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year and biennially  
4 thereafter, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
5 recalculate the average number of degrees granted by each  
6 institution in the areas of nursing, engineering, and teaching for  
7 the previous three academic years, which shall be used as the basis  
8 for the granting of awards.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

10 SECTION 3. 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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