

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 845
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Author:	Sen. Standridge
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Bill Analysis

SB 845 directs governing boards of institutions of higher education within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to ensure that each unit does not, except as required by federal law, establish a diversity, equity, and inclusion office; hire or assign employees to perform the duties of such an office; compel or require any person to provide a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement or give preferential consideration to a person based on such a statement; give preference on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to an applicant for employment, an employee, or a participant in any institutional function; or require, as a condition of enrolling or performing any institution function, any person to participate in diversity, equity, and inclusion training that includes certain concepts. It prohibits an institution of higher education from spending funds in a state fiscal year until the governing board of the institution submits to the Legislature and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education a report certifying its compliance with the legislation.

The measure directs each institution's governing board or a designee to testify before higher education committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives during the legislative interim. It requires the State Auditor and Inspector to conduct periodic compliance audits of each institution of higher education. It states that if the State Auditor and Inspector determines an institution has spent funds in violation of the legislation, it must cure the violation within 180 days, or if it does not cure the violation, the institution will be ineligible to receive funding allocation increases from the State Regents for the next fiscal year. It creates a cause of action for a student or employee who is required to participate in training in violation of the legislation. The bill also directs the State Regents to conduct a biennial study to identify the impact of the legislation, and it requires the study's findings to be submitted to the Senate President Pro Tempore and the House Speaker.

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