

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 725

By: Boren

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to workforce development; amending 74 O.S. 2021, Section 5003.10d, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 100, O.S.L. 2024 (74 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 5003.10d), which relates to the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development; requiring the Council to prepare certain report for distribution; updating statutory references; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 5003.10d, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 100, O.S.L. 2024 (74 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 5003.10d), is amended to read as follows:

Section 5003.10d. A. The Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development established under the authority of Executive Order 2005-27 is hereby recognized by the Legislature as the State's Workforce Investment Board. The Council succeeded and was established in lieu of the Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board. Appointed members of the Council serving under the authority of Executive Order 2005-27 ~~when this act becomes effective~~ on June 6,

1 2006, shall continue to serve until their terms have expired and
2 their successors have been duly appointed.

3 Pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
4 Act, the purpose of the Council shall be to:

5 1. Guide the development of a comprehensive and coordinated
6 workforce development system for the state and monitor its
7 operation; and

8 2. Review and make recommendations that will align the
9 workforce system, including education, with the economic development
10 goals of the state for the purpose of creating workforce and
11 economic development systems that are integrated and shall provide
12 Oklahoma a competitive advantage in a global economy.

13 B. Membership of the Council shall include representatives of
14 private employers who reflect Oklahoma's projected and desired
15 business and industry base and public officials from agencies which
16 provide programs and services related to workforce, education and
17 economic development. All Council members shall be in positions to
18 influence policy and hiring decisions within their organizations.
19 Initial appointments to the Council shall conform to the following
20 described schedule:

21 1. The membership of the Council shall comply with the federal
22 requirements of the state investment board;

23 2. A majority of the Council shall come from described private
24 sector employers, including owners of businesses, chief executives
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1 or operating officers of businesses or other business executives or
2 employees with optimum policymaking or hiring authority, and who
3 represent businesses, including small businesses, that provide
4 employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality,
5 work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors
6 or occupations in this state;

7 3. State officials shall include incumbents or designees of the
8 following named offices, or their successors in office or function:

9 a. Governor,

10 b. two members of the ~~Oklahoma~~ Senate, appointed by the
11 President Pro Tempore,

12 c. two members of the ~~Oklahoma~~ House of Representatives,
13 appointed by the Speaker, ~~and~~

14 d. Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security
15 Commission, and

16 e. Commissioner of Labor;

17 4. Additional members, at the discretion and pleasure of the
18 Governor, may be appointed representing the needs or interests of
19 the state economy or specific regional needs; and

20 5. Ex-officio members, at the discretion and pleasure of the
21 Governor, may be included to provide expertise and agency
22 information to the Council. These appointments may include, but not
23 be limited to:

24 a. the Secretary of Education,

- b. the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
- c. the Secretary of Commerce,
- d. the Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
- e. the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education,
- f. the ~~State~~ Superintendent of Public Instruction,
- g. the Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation Services,
- h. the Director of the ~~Oklahoma~~ Department of Corrections,
- i. the Commissioner of the ~~Oklahoma~~ Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services,
- j. the Director of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and
- k. the Oklahoma Native American Liaison.

C. Private sector members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor for a two-year term beginning October 1, 2005, and may be reappointed. However, of the initial private sector members appointed, half shall be appointed for an initial term of one (1) year beginning October 1, 2005. Private members may be removed from office for failure to attend three consecutive Council meetings. The chair of the Council shall be from the

1 private sector and shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure
2 of the Governor.

3 D. The Council shall meet at such times and places as it deems
4 appropriate. Members shall serve without compensation. Council
5 members employed by a state agency shall be reimbursed travel
6 expenses related to their service on the Council as authorized by
7 state law by their respective state agency. Legislative members of
8 the Council shall be reimbursed by their respective houses for
9 necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
10 duties as authorized by state law. Remaining Council members shall
11 also be reimbursed travel expenses related to their service on the
12 Council by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission as authorized
13 by state law. No member of the Council shall profit, directly or
14 indirectly, from any transaction with the Council.

15 E. The duties and responsibilities of the Council in the
16 development, monitoring and aligning of the workforce system with
17 economic development shall include, but not be limited to:

18 1. Performing the duties required of the state governance board
19 by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;

20 2. Identifying the human resource investment needs of Oklahoma
21 business and industry, together with those of the citizens of the
22 state, so that each might respond to and meet the needs of the
23 others and thus together build a robust, diversified economy;

1 3. Reviewing and evaluating workforce development programs
2 within the state, formulate recommendations to increase their
3 efficiency and effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and align with
4 economic goals. Recommendations shall be communicated to the
5 Governor, Legislature, state and federal government agencies and
6 appropriate individuals and entities within the private sector;

7 4. Increasing academic capability and technical skills within
8 the state workforce and foster lifelong learning among Oklahoma's
9 citizens;

10 5. Strengthening collaboration among institutions which provide
11 education and training services, government agencies which
12 coordinate employment and other human resource investment
13 activities, and Oklahoma business and industry to create a seamless
14 system to nurture healthy economic development; ~~and~~

15 6. Enhancing rural economic development capability and
16 capacity, giving particular attention to regional collaboration and
17 partnering; and

18 7. Obtaining detailed reports from state agencies and
19 stakeholders that have utilized tax incentives for advancement of
20 workforce development. These reports shall be analyzed and compiled
21 for a comprehensive report to be electronically distributed to the
22 Governor and the Legislature and shall include the following:

23 a. the number of Oklahomans hired by Oklahoma businesses
24 and industries utilizing workforce development

1 incentive programs and tax incentives provided by the
2 state, and

3 b. the full-time, part-time, and temporary status of the
4 jobs provided by the entities benefiting from the
5 incentives.

6 F. Activities of the Council shall be coordinated by the
7 Secretary of Workforce Development.

8 G. The State Workforce Partners originally established under
9 the authority of Executive Order 2005-27 as the Workforce Solutions
10 Staff Team is hereby recognized by the Legislature. This
11 interagency team shall be comprised of executive level staff from
12 workforce, education and economic development agencies of the state
13 for the purpose of providing staff support to the Council and to
14 create efficiencies, eliminate duplication, and eliminate barriers
15 to jointly providing a service delivery system. Other members may
16 be included on this team as the Governor may deem necessary to
17 accomplish this goal.

18 H. The Council shall be supported by funds available to state
19 agencies pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations. Each
20 member of the Council whose agency qualifies pursuant to state and
21 federal law to receive and use such funds shall assist by providing
22 support and funding of the Council in carrying out the
23 responsibilities of the Council.

1 I. The Council shall form a subcommittee on health workforce
2 whose purpose shall be to inform, coordinate, and facilitate
3 statewide efforts to ensure that a well-trained, adequately
4 distributed, and flexible health workforce is available to meet the
5 needs of an efficient and effective health care system in Oklahoma.
6 Duties of the Health Workforce Subcommittee shall include, but not
7 be limited to, the following:

8 1. Conducting data analysis and preparing reports on health
9 workforce supply and demand;

10 2. Research and analysis of state health professional education
11 and training capacity;

12 3. Recommend recruitment and retention strategies for areas
13 determined by the Oklahoma Primary Care Office or the Oklahoma
14 Office of Rural Health to be areas of high need; and

15 4. Assessment of health workforce policy, evaluation of impact
16 on Oklahoma's health system and health outcomes, and developing
17 health workforce policy recommendations.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.
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