

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1921

By: Fincher

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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10 An Act relating to virtual presence; creating the
11 Oklahomans Virtually Everywhere Act of 2019; defining
12 terms; directing agencies to develop certain
13 proposals; providing for information contained in
14 proposals; providing for codification; and declaring
15 an emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 36.1 of Title 62, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahomans
21 Virtually Everywhere Act of 2019". The Oklahomans Virtually
22 Everywhere Act creates a statewide initiative that allows Oklahomans
23 to provide their expertise throughout the world without leaving
24 their communities by Oklahoma becoming the leader in telepresence
 and virtual presence.

1 B. For purposes of this section:

2 1. "Telepresence" means the ability of people who are not
3 physically present with each other to collaborate and interact with
4 others in meetings, conferences, office work and other contexts as
5 though they were physically present; and

6 2. "Virtual presence" means that the interactions between
7 individuals and groups virtually present in meetings, conferences,
8 office work and other social contexts are indistinguishable between
9 those who are physically present and those who are not.

10 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall lead
11 an effort in conjunction with OneNet, the State Board of Career and
12 Technology Education, State Department of Education, Oklahoma
13 Department of Libraries, Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the
14 Office of Management and Enterprise Services on behalf of all state
15 agencies to create a research and development proposal to make
16 Oklahoma a leader in telepresence, with the ultimate goal of being a
17 leader in virtual presence as the technology matures. The proposal
18 shall include a proposed budget and be prepared for the legislative
19 session following the effective date of this act. Each agency in
20 this subsection shall designate a liaison for this effort.

21 D. The proposal shall:

22 1. Include a proposed budget and be prepared for the budget
23 hearings of the legislative session;

1 2. Be created in consultation with businesses and state
2 agencies;

3 3. Include a strategy for training Oklahoma organizations to
4 use existing technology for telepresence and virtual presence; and

5 4. Include an overview of the current state of telepresence in
6 Oklahoma education, government and business, with the following:

7 a. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
8 telepresence in education,

9 b. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
10 telepresence in government,

11 c. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
12 telepresence in business,

13 d. research and actions necessary to become a leader in
14 telepresence in Oklahoma rural communities,

15 e. identification of potential partners and sources of
16 matching or other funds,

17 f. strategy for training Oklahoma organizations to use
18 existing technology for telepresence and virtual
19 presence, and

20 g. any additional information deemed necessary by the
21 participants.

22 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER TECH,
5 dated 02/27/2019 - DO PASS, As Amended.
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