

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3840

By: Pittman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to mental health; establishing the Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives; providing the purpose of the office; providing for nonprofit partnering; providing for administration of the office; authorizing eligibility for retirement participation; authorizing eligibility for health benefits; requiring reports to the Governor and Legislature; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-160 of Title 43A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby established a "Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives" (OFBCI), referred to as the "Office" in this act.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-161 of Title 43A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 In order to maximize the effectiveness of state government
2 through collaboration with faith-based and community initiatives to
3 serve Oklahomans with respect to public purposes, such as improving
4 public safety, overcoming addiction, strengthening families and
5 communities, and overcoming poverty, the Office shall, to the extent
6 permitted by law:

7 1. Promote and foster the development of relationships and
8 coordination between state government and faith-based and community
9 initiatives and serve as a resource for and liaison between state
10 government and such initiatives;

11 2. Coordinate activities designed to mobilize public support
12 for faith-based and community initiatives through volunteerism,
13 special projects, and public-private partnerships;

14 3. Raise ideas and policy options to the Governor that would
15 assist, strengthen, expand, or replicate successful faith-based and
16 community programs;

17 4. Ensure that state government decisions and programs are
18 consistent with the goal of partnering with faith-based and
19 community initiatives when doing so is in the public interest, and
20 monitor how such decisions and programs affect faith-based and
21 community initiatives;

22 5. Work with state, local, and community policymakers,
23 volunteers, and public officials to facilitate coordination with and
24 empowerment of faith-based and other community organizations where
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1 doing so would improve such groups' service to the communities
2 involved; and

3 6. Showcase and herald successful and innovative faith-based
4 and community organizations and civic initiatives.

5 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-162 of Title 43A, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. The Office may partner with a nonprofit public benefit
9 corporation that is organized to maximize the effectiveness of
10 faith-based and community initiatives in serving Oklahomans with
11 respect to public purposes, in order to carry out the purposes of
12 the Office.

13 B. The Governor shall select the members of the board of
14 directors of the nonprofit partner. The nonprofit partner's board
15 may select its own chair. The nonprofit partner shall have an
16 executive director, who is selected by the Governor.

17 C. The nonprofit partner shall be properly incorporated under
18 the laws of the State of Oklahoma and approved by the Internal
19 Revenue Service as an organization that is exempt from federal
20 income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and
21 Title 26 U.S.C. Section 501(a), by virtue of being an organization
22 described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and
23 Title 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3).

1 D. The nonprofit partner may receive and solicit funds from the
2 general public.

3 E. A state employee shall not receive compensation from funds
4 received by the nonprofit partner.

5 F. The nonprofit partner may exercise all powers authorized by
6 the State of Oklahoma.

7 G. The nonprofit partner may receive staff and other assistance
8 from any department, agency, board or commission, or other division
9 of state government.

10 H. Subject to existing statutes, rules, and policies, the
11 nonprofit partner may enter into agreements with state government
12 for procurement of office space, supplies, and other items, as
13 necessary to effectively carry out the purposes of this act.

14 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-163 of Title 43A, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. For administrative purposes, the Office is attached to the
18 Oklahoma Finance Division.

19 B. Any department, agency, board or commission, or other
20 division of state government may provide staff and other assistance
21 to the Office, and all departments, agencies, boards and
22 commissions, and other divisions of state government shall fully
23 cooperate with the Office and shall provide staff support and other
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1 assistance as reasonably required, subject to existing statutes,
2 rules, and policies.

3 C. The Office may enter into such contractual and promotional
4 agreements necessary to maximize the effectiveness of state
5 government through collaboration with faith-based and community
6 initiatives to serve Oklahomans with respect to public purposes.

7 D. The Office may work with local governments, private
8 organizations, and citizens as it plans and engages in activities
9 related to the Office.

10 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-164 of Title 43A, unless there
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. The nonprofit partner shall be eligible to be a
14 participating employer in the Oklahoma retirement system upon
15 passage of a resolution by the nonprofit's board of directors
16 authorizing:

- 17 1. An actuarial study; and
- 18 2. Participation, and accepting the liability as a result of
19 the participation, by its full-time employees.

20 B. The employees of the nonprofit partner shall make the same
21 contributions, participate in the same manner, and are eligible for
22 the same benefits as employees of local governments participating in
23 the retirement system.

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1 C. The employees of the nonprofit partner are entitled to
2 credit for prior service, as approved by the board of directors of
3 the nonprofit, under the same provisions that apply to employees of
4 local governments.

5 D. The retirement system is not liable for the payment of
6 retirement allowances or other payments on account of employees of
7 the nonprofit partner, or the beneficiaries of such employees, for
8 which reserves have not been previously created from funds
9 contributed by the nonprofit partner, its employees, or the
10 nonprofit partner and its employees.

11 E. In case of the withdrawal of the nonprofit partner as a
12 participating employer, the benefits of the members and
13 beneficiaries shall be determined in accordance with Section 910 of
14 Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

15 F. All costs associated with retirement coverage, including
16 administrative costs, are the responsibility of the nonprofit
17 partner.

18 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-165 of Title 43A, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 The nonprofit partner may participate, the same as an eligible
22 quasi-governmental organization, in the health insurance plan
23 authorized under Section 1301 et. seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
24 Statutes, to provide health insurance for its employees, as long as
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1 such nonprofit partner satisfies each of the requirements of Section
2 1301 et. seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

3 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-166 of Title 43A, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. The nonprofit partner shall annually submit to the Governor,
7 the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate, and the Speaker of
8 the Oklahoma House of Representatives, within ninety (90) days after
9 the end of its fiscal year, a report setting forth its operation and
10 accomplishments.

11 B. The nonprofit partner is subject to examination and audit by
12 the comptroller of the Treasury in the same manner as prescribed for
13 departments and agencies of the state.

14 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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