

OKLAHOMA STATE SENATE  
CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE REPORT

May 18, 2023

Mr. President:

Mr. Speaker:

The Conference Committee, to which was referred

SB621

By: Pugh of the Senate and Hill of the House

Title: Workforce development; creating the Oklahoma Workforce Commission. Emergency.


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together with Engrossed House Amendments thereto, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and herewith return the same with the following recommendations:


1. That the House recede from all Amendments.
2. That the attached Conference Committee Substitute (Request #2193) be adopted.


Respectfully submitted,


SENATE CONFEREES:

  
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 Pugh

  
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 Coleman

  
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 Thompson, K.

  
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 Seiffried

  
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 Weaver

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 Young

HOUSE CONFEREES:

Conference Committee on Rules

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 621

6 By: Pugh of the Senate

7 and

8 Hill, Archer, and Lepak of  
9 the House

10 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Workforce  
12 Transformation Act; providing short title; defining  
13 terms; creating the Oklahoma Workforce Commission;  
14 providing purpose; requiring the Commission to  
15 consult certain groups; providing for membership;  
16 providing for qualification of commissioners; stating  
17 appointment terms; allowing for election of chair and  
18 vice chair; requiring certain meeting; allowing  
19 certain reimbursement; stating quorum; providing for  
20 powers, duties, and responsibilities of the  
21 Commission; providing for codification; and declaring  
22 an emergency.

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

24 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 900 of Title 40, unless there is  
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
Workforce Transformation Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 901 of Title 40, unless there is  
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 As used in this act:

5 1. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Workforce Commission;

6 2. "Person" means any individual, group of individuals, or any  
7 partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or employee  
8 thereof, or any other legal entity; and

9 3. "Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development"  
10 means the State's Workforce Investment Board established under the  
11 authority of Executive Order 2005-27 and Section 5003.10d of Title  
12 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

13 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 902 of Title 40, unless there is  
15 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 There is hereby created the Oklahoma Workforce Commission. The  
17 purpose of the Commission is to coordinate the development of the  
18 workforce needed to grow Oklahoma's economy and Oklahomans'  
19 prosperity. To accomplish this purpose, the Commission is empowered  
20 to the fullest extent permitted by law to coordinate the funding and  
21 activities of each element of the state's workforce development  
22 programs, systems, and entities; to achieve better alignment,  
23 accountability, and results for the state's workforce development  
24 efforts; and to act as the principal point of contact regarding

1 workforce development for public officials, businesses, and the  
2 public. In carrying out its work, the Commission shall consult  
3 officials, leaders, and experts in workforce development including,  
4 but not limited to, state and local agencies, departments,  
5 educational institutions, boards, commissions, the private sector,  
6 and other leaders and experts. The Commission shall convene  
7 advisory committees consisting of relevant state and local agencies,  
8 departments, educational institutions, boards, commissions, the  
9 private sector, and other officials as the Commission deems  
10 appropriate. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
11 Commission shall serve as a coordinating body for workforce  
12 development entities in the state and that workforce development  
13 entities will fully participate in and cooperate with the  
14 Commission's activities, but the Commission shall not directly  
15 exercise governing control of state and local agencies, departments,  
16 educational institutions, boards, commissions, and other workforce  
17 development entities except as otherwise prescribed by law.

18 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 903 of Title 40, unless there is  
20 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. The Oklahoma Workforce Commission shall consist of nine (9)  
22 members. The nine members shall be private sector leaders  
23 conducting business in this state:  
24

1           1. Three members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore  
2 of the Senate;

3           2. Three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives; and

5           3. Three members to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom  
6 shall be designated by the Governor to serve as chair of the  
7 Commission.

8           B. The members of the Commission shall be qualified electors of  
9 this state and shall not be employed by any government entity or  
10 have been employed by a government entity within the preceding one-  
11 year period.

12           C. For the initial appointments of Commissioners, each  
13 appointing authority shall make one appointment for a one-year term,  
14 one appointment for a two-year term, and one appointment for a  
15 three-year term. Thereafter, the terms of the Commissioners shall  
16 be for three (3) years. Commissioners may be appointed to  
17 subsequent terms without limit as to number.

18           D. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled for the  
19 unexpired term of office in the same manner as the original  
20 appointment. The appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of  
21 the appointing authorities.

22           E. In addition to the chair appointed by the Governor, the  
23 Commission may establish and elect additional officers by a majority  
24 vote of the Commissioners. The chair shall preside over meetings of

1 the Commission and officers shall perform duties as may be required  
2 by the Commission. The first meeting of the Commission shall be  
3 called by the chair no later than sixty (60) days after the  
4 effective date of this act.

5 F. No member of the Commission shall receive a salary for  
6 duties performed as a member of the Commission; however, members are  
7 eligible to receive reimbursement for expenses and travel  
8 reimbursement as provided for in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

9 G. Members serving on the Commission shall be eligible to serve  
10 on any other state board or commission if such member is otherwise  
11 qualified to hold such appointed office, notwithstanding the  
12 provisions of Section 6 of Title 51 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

13 H. A quorum of five members shall be required to conduct  
14 official business of the Commission.

15 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 904 of Title 40, unless there is  
17 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 The Oklahoma Workforce Commission shall have the following  
19 powers, duties, and responsibilities:

20 1. To administer the provisions of this act or any duty as  
21 directed by statute;

22 2. To establish an office for the Commission within this state;

23 3. To elect whatever other officers may be necessary to direct  
24 operations of the Commission;

1       4. To employ or contract for personnel and administrative  
2 support as the Commission deems appropriate to carry out the purpose  
3 and provisions of this act, including but not limited to a nonprofit  
4 corporation to carry out the Commission's objectives, an Executive  
5 Director or other chief executive officer and any other employees or  
6 contractors the Commission deems appropriate, and to prescribe their  
7 duties and fix their compensation;

8       5. To administer the Workforce Coordination Revolving Fund  
9 created in Section 255.4 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

10       6. To approve or disapprove the budget of the Commission;

11       7. To promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of this act;

12       8. To enter into contracts or agreements for studies,  
13 professional services, grant administration and procurement,  
14 research projects, supplies, or any other services the Commission  
15 deems necessary to carry out its purpose, and to incur those  
16 expenses necessary to carry out those purposes;

17       9. To cooperate with any private, local, state, or national  
18 commission, organization, agency, or group and to make contracts and  
19 agreements for joint programs beneficial to Oklahoma's workforce  
20 development efforts;

21       10. To accept donations, grants, contributions, and gifts from  
22 any public or private source and deposit such in the Workforce  
23 Coordination Revolving Fund, created in Section 255.4 of Title 62 of  
24 the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 11. To oversee and direct to the extent permitted by law the  
2 activities and administration of the Governor's Council for  
3 Workforce and Economic Development, including but not limited to the  
4 creation and submission of state plans to the federal government  
5 pursuant to the provisions of the Workforce Innovation and  
6 Opportunity Act;

7 12. To collect data from federal, state, and local agencies,  
8 departments, educational institutions, boards, commissions, or any  
9 other entities including, but not limited to:

- 10 a. number of participants in workforce development  
11 programming,
- 12 b. cost per participant,
- 13 c. wages before and after participation in programs,
- 14 d. degree or certificate conferred on each participant,
- 15 e. number of jobs open needing degrees or certificates,
- 16 f. labor force and economic information, and
- 17 g. any other information the Commission deems appropriate  
18 to guide funding decisions, facilitate its work or the  
19 work of workforce development entities in the state,  
20 or to understand the impact of the state's workforce  
21 efforts and programming;

22 13. To create and maintain a public dashboard and create  
23 reports with data concerning workforce development efforts in the  
24 state. All state and local agencies, departments, educational



1 institutions, boards, commissions, and other public entities shall  
2 cooperate with information and data requests from the Commission or  
3 its designees. It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
4 Oklahoma Workforce Commission serve as the centralized data and  
5 information repository for workforce development activities for the  
6 state; and

7 14. To make recommendations to the Legislature to improve  
8 workforce development programs in the state.

9 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
10 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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