

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1910

6 By: Alonso-Sandoval

7  
8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to environment and natural resources;  
10 providing a short title; providing for the  
11 establishment and administration of the Urban  
12 Agriculture Cost Share Program; providing for purpose  
13 of program; providing funding source; providing for  
14 promulgation of program guidelines once funding is  
15 available; requiring conservation districts to enter  
16 into contracts for eligible projects detailing  
17 responsibilities; defining terms; providing  
18 considerations for program guidelines; requiring  
19 applicants to submit certain information, forms, and  
20 reports; providing that persons may apply to a  
21 conservation district for cost share funds for  
22 eligible urban agriculture initiatives; providing  
23 requirements to receive a reimbursement; providing  
24 for approval and denial of applications; requiring  
the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to prepare and  
post certain statistical data; requiring  
dissemination of data to certain state cabinet  
secretaries; providing for liability of state;  
amending 27A O.S. 2021, Section 3-2-110, which  
relates to Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
Infrastructure Revolving Fund; expanding purpose of  
fund to include funding the Urban Agriculture Cost  
Share Program; providing for codification; and  
providing an effective date.

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

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-601 of Title 27A, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Urban  
5 Agriculture Cost Share Program".

6 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-602 of Title 27A, unless  
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is hereby authorized to  
10 establish and administer an Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program as  
11 funds become available. The Cost Share Program shall provide monies  
12 to eligible persons.

13 B. The purpose of the Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program is  
14 to promote sustainable urban agricultural practices, improve food  
15 security, and enhance green spaces in Oklahoma's urban areas.

16 C. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission Infrastructure  
17 Revolving Fund shall provide funding for the Urban Agriculture Cost  
18 Share Program. When sufficient funds are available in the Oklahoma  
19 Conservation Commission Infrastructure Revolving Fund, the  
20 Commission shall develop and disseminate the program guidelines to  
21 the conservation districts containing urban areas. The guidelines  
22 shall detail incentives to eligible persons for initiating and  
23 continuing urban agriculture initiatives.

24

1 D. To implement the program, the Commission shall require  
2 conservation districts to enter into contracts for eligible projects  
3 on eligible land detailing the eligible person's responsibilities.

4 E. For purposes of the Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program:

5 1. "Eligible person" means any individual, partnership,  
6 corporation, or legally recognized Indian tribe which shall include  
7 land held in trust, estate, or trust who as an owner, lessee,  
8 tenant, or operator participates in the care or management of land  
9 within a conservation district;

10 2. "Eligible land" means land that is within five (5) miles of  
11 an urban area that is:

12 a. privately owned land within the state,

13 b. land owned by the state or a political subdivision of  
14 the state, or

15 c. lands temporarily owned by the United States or a  
16 corporation wholly owned by it, which were not  
17 acquired or reserved for conservation purposes,  
18 including lands administered by the Farm Service  
19 Agency, the U.S. Department of Defense, or by any  
20 other government agency;

21 3. "Eligible projects" means urban agriculture projects that  
22 include, but are not limited to:

23 a. establishing or expanding community gardens in urban  
24 neighborhoods,

- b. rooftop and vertical farming,
- c. installing greenhouses, high tunnels, or hoop houses for food production,
- d. installing rainwater harvesting systems and efficient irrigation for urban farming,
- e. enhancing soil health through composting and nutrient management in urban areas,
- f. establishing urban apiaries,
- g. planting urban pollinator gardens,
- h. building livestock infrastructure such as chicken coops or goat enclosures,
- i. developing and implementing education programs on urban farming practices,
- j. creating, operating, and maintaining an urban food waste composting program,
- k. urban marketing initiatives for Oklahoma farms to sell in urban areas, and
- l. other projects that accomplish the objectives and purpose of this Cost Share Program; and

4. "Urban Area" means the areas in Oklahoma which have been defined by the United States Census Bureau as urban areas based on certain criteria and utilizing data from the most recent Federal Decennial Census.

1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-603 of Title 27A, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 When developing the guidelines for an Urban Agriculture Cost  
5 Share Program, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall consider:

6 1. Prioritizing projects in geographic areas where residents  
7 have low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and  
8 affordable food;

9 2. Building on existing urban agriculture projects to continue  
10 to grow community engagement;

11 3. Reviewing approved cost-share methods available through  
12 USDA-NRCS to promote urban agriculture, improve urban food security,  
13 and enhance green spaces in urban areas; and

14 4. Evaluating if other federal, state, or Oklahoma tribal  
15 programs can be enhanced by the inclusion of practices in the  
16 Commission's Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program.

17 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-604 of Title 27A, unless  
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. The Conservation Commission shall require applicants to  
21 submit information, forms and reports as necessary to properly and  
22 efficiently administer the Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program.

23 B. Persons may apply to a conservation district for cost share  
24 funds for eligible urban agriculture initiatives in the State of

1 Oklahoma, in accordance with the Cost Share Program year guidelines  
2 prepared yearly by the Commission. To be eligible for reimbursement  
3 for an urban agriculture cost share project, an eligible person  
4 shall:

5 1. Develop and file for review and approval with the  
6 conservation district a project plan that details the urban  
7 agriculture project plans, location of project, materials needed,  
8 expected expenditure, length of time expected to complete project  
9 construction, monitoring or operation plan if applicable, and  
10 expected community benefit of project; and

11 2. Enter into a contract with a conservation district detailing  
12 the responsibilities of the eligible person for the initial Cost  
13 Share Program year as well as any potential continuing  
14 responsibilities that are required to operate and maintain the  
15 project, if applicable.

16 C. Applications for funds shall be approved or denied by the  
17 conservation district in accordance with promulgated criteria  
18 prepared by the Commission.

19 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-605 of Title 27A, unless  
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 Upon the conclusion of each Cost Share Program year, the  
23 Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall prepare and post on the  
24 agency website the statistical data for number and type of urban

1 agriculture projects, funds expended, and urban community impacts by  
2 urban area of the cost share practices for that program year. This  
3 same information shall also be shared with the state cabinet  
4 Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and Environment.

5 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-606 of Title 27A, unless  
7 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 Nothing in this act or in the contract executed pursuant to  
9 Section 4 of this act shall be interpreted or construed to  
10 constitute a financial or general obligation of the state. No state  
11 revenue shall be used to guarantee or pay for any damages to  
12 property or injury to persons as a result of the provisions of this  
13 act or the contract.

14 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 27A O.S. 2021, Section 3-2-110, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 3-2-110. A. There is hereby created in the State  
17 Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
18 to be designated the "Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
19 Infrastructure Revolving Fund".

20 B. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal  
21 year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the  
22 Oklahoma Conservation Commission from the apportionment of gross  
23 production tax revenues as prescribed by Section 1004 of Title 68 of  
24 the Oklahoma Statutes.

1 C. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby  
2 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma  
3 Conservation Commission for the purpose of the rehabilitation of  
4 watershed dams and, for the Conservation Cost Share Program, the  
5 Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program, and the Conservation Reserve  
6 Enhancement Program.

7 D. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants  
8 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by  
9 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise  
10 Services for approval and payment.

11 E. No more than thirty percent (30%) of the monies in the fund  
12 shall be used for the payment of administrative expenses, salary or  
13 any other continuing obligation of the Oklahoma Conservation  
14 Commission; provided, however, such monies shall not be used for  
15 salary increases for employees.

16 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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