

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 HOUSE BILL 1547

By: Patzkowsky of the House

5 and

6 Pederson of the Senate

7
8
9 AS INTRODUCED

10 An Act relating to agricultural fairs and
11 expositions; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-24,
12 which relates to items to be considered in
13 expenditure of funds; modifying language; permitting
14 consideration of certain communications and
15 supporting equipment; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section
16 15-55, which relates to election of officers and
17 directors of the county fair association; requiring
18 voting window; providing procedures for removal of
19 officers and directors; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section
20 15-58, which relates to items to be considered in
21 expenditure of funds; modifying language; permitting
22 consideration of certain communications and
23 supporting equipment; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section
24 15-70, which relates to annual levy in support and
maintenance of fair; permitting use of funds for
certain communications and supporting equipment; and
providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-24, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 15-24. A. The executive board shall:

- 1 1. Make an estimate of the cost of the free district fair;
- 2 2. Apportion to each of the counties comprising the association
3 the portion to be borne by each member county together with the plan
4 and items of expenditures; and
- 5 3. Certify the estimate to the county excise board in each of
6 the member counties in time to be acted on by the county excise
7 board at its annual meeting for making tax levies.
- 8 B. The items to be considered in the expenditure of funds shall
9 be for:
- 10 1. Premiums on livestock, poultry, fruit, agriculture,
11 horticultural and dairy products; boys' and girls' club work, school
12 exhibits, culinary products, textile products, needlework and
13 sewing, hand painting, decorating and drawing, and cultivated plants
14 and flowers;
- 15 2. The necessary expenses of management of free district fairs
16 organized under the provisions of this article, including office
17 expense, postage, ~~telegraph and telephone~~, digital and electronic
18 communication, Internet and supporting equipment, traveling expenses
19 of secretary within the district in which the fair is held, printing
20 (except premium lists) and necessary office supplies, premium
21 ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards, superintendents and
22 judges; and

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1 3. Advertising the fair and for decorating and cleaning the
2 grounds and buildings, and for caring for the grounds during the
3 fair.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-55, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 15-55. A. As soon as practicable, prior to July first,
7 after the election of members of the county fair association, the
8 members elect shall meet at the county seat and shall perfect an
9 organization by the election of a president, vice president,
10 secretary and a board of directors. The members elect shall
11 designate a day where they shall have a twelve-hour window to vote
12 for the election of a president, vice president, secretary, and
13 board of directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the
14 president, vice president, secretary and four members, and such
15 committees and officers as shall be deemed necessary. The secretary
16 may be selected outside of the association, but must be a resident
17 of the county seat or the town or city where the county fair is
18 held.

19 B. The president, vice president, secretary, or any member of
20 the board of directors may be removed from their position for
21 failure to attend at least fifty percent (50%) of meetings in a
22 calendar year. The president, vice president, secretary, and
23 members of the board of directors may be removed from their
24 positions by a unanimous vote of all other members.

1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-58, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 15-58. A. The executive board, with such committee as
4 may be selected from the county fair association, shall make an
5 estimate of the cost of the township and county fairs, and shall
6 certify such estimate to the county excise board in time to be acted
7 upon by the county excise board at its annual meeting for making tax
8 levies.

9 B. The items to be considered in the expenditure of funds shall
10 be for:

11 1. Premiums on livestock, poultry, agricultural and
12 horticultural products, dairy products, boys' and girls' club work,
13 products of domestic science and domestic arts, school exhibits,
14 hand painting, decorating and drawing, manufactured articles,
15 cultivated plants and flowers;

16 2. Necessary expenses of management of township and county
17 fairs organized under the provisions of this article, including
18 office expenses, postage, ~~telegraph and telephone~~, digital and
19 electronic communication, Internet and supporting equipment, salary
20 and traveling expenses of the secretary, printing and necessary
21 office supplies, premium ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards,
22 superintendents and judges;

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1 3. Advertising the fairs and for decorating and cleaning the
2 grounds and buildings, and for caring for the grounds and buildings;
3 and

4 4. Transportation and arrangement of township fair exhibits at
5 the county fair and county fair exhibits at the Oklahoma State Fair
6 and other State Fairs.

7 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-70, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 15-70. A. The county commissioners, the county excise
10 board and all other proper officers of the county may make an annual
11 levy upon all taxable property in the county in an amount not to
12 exceed one-half (1/2) of one (1) mill per annum in counties of more
13 than fifteen thousand (15,000) population. In counties of less than
14 fifteen thousand (15,000) population, the proper officers of the
15 county may make an annual levy upon all taxable property in the
16 county of not exceeding one (1) mill per annum. The purpose of the
17 levy is to raise funds for:

18 1. The support and maintenance of the fair, including the
19 payment of premiums on livestock, poultry, agricultural and
20 horticultural products, dairy products, boys' and girls' club work
21 or other junior agricultural organizations which shall be in one
22 class, products of domestic science and domestic arts, farm women's
23 clubs, hand paintings, cultivated plants and flowers;

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1 2. Necessary expenses of management of said fair, including
2 office expenses, postage, ~~telegraph~~ and telephone, digital and
3 electronic communication, Internet and supporting equipment, salary
4 and traveling expenses of the secretary, printing and necessary
5 office supplies;

6 3. Premium ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards,
7 superintendents and judges;

8 4. Advertising, decorating and cleaning the grounds and
9 buildings; and

10 5. The repair of or erecting buildings owned and controlled by
11 said county that are or will be used for free fair purposes.

12 B. In the counties of this state having a population in excess
13 of fifty-five thousand (55,000), according to the 1940 Federal
14 Decennial Census and in which county there is not authorized a state
15 fair, it shall be the mandatory duty of the county commissioners and
16 the excise board and other officers of the county, to make annual
17 levy for the purposes specified by this section upon all taxable
18 property in such county of not less than one-fourth (1/4) of one (1)
19 mill per annum.

20 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT, dated
23 02/27/2025 - DO PASS.

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