

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 278

By: Goodwin

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Department of
7 Commerce; requiring Department to create certain
8 program; stating purpose of certain program;
9 requiring input of committee composed of certain
10 members; stating purpose; creating the Tulsa Race
11 Massacre Victims' Compensation Revolving Fund;
12 directing expenditures from certain fund; making an
13 appropriation; providing an effective date; and
14 declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8228 of Title 74, unless there
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce, with the assistance of
20 nonprofit organizations, and any state agency, board, commission, or
21 department with information or resources that could assist the
22 Department, shall create and administer a program under which
23 survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre living on the effective
24 date of this act shall each receive a payment of Two Million Dollars
(\$2,000,000.00) from the Tulsa Race Massacre Victims' Compensation
Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this act. If a
survivor dies prior to receipt of such payment, a payment not to

1 exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) cumulatively shall be
2 disbursed to legatees as designated in a will of such survivor, or
3 to the descendants of the survivor as provided by laws of succession
4 of this state if the survivor dies intestate.

5 B. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall work with and
6 receive input from a committee to be composed of:

7 1. A member of the Senate whose district includes the Greenwood
8 District in Tulsa to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
9 the Senate;

10 2. A member of the House of Representatives whose district
11 includes the Greenwood District in Tulsa to be appointed by the
12 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

13 3. A member to be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of
14 the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

15 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8229 of Title 74, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
19 for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to be designated the "Tulsa
20 Race Massacre Victims' Compensation Revolving Fund". The fund shall
21 be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and
22 shall consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Department of
23 Commerce from appropriations provided for the purpose of
24 compensating survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. All monies

1 accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and shall
2 be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for
3 the purpose provided for in Section 1 of this act. Expenditures
4 from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
5 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
6 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
7 approval and payment.

8 SECTION 3. There is hereby appropriated to the Tulsa Race
9 Massacre Victims' Compensation Revolving Fund created in Section 2
10 of this act from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the
11 General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year
12 ending June 30, 2023, the sum of Four Million Dollars
13 (\$4,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay
14 restitution to living survivors affected during the events of
15 approximately May 31, 1921, through June 1, 1921, in the city of
16 Tulsa, which events shall be known as the "Tulsa Race Massacre".

17 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

18 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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