

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 104

By: Young

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; creating the Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality; providing for membership, appointment, terms, removal, vacancies, and reimbursement; providing certain administrative support; establishing powers and duties; establishing revolving fund; 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 13001 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality. The Commission shall consist of thirteen (13) members.

The members shall be appointed as follows: three members shall be appointed by the Governor, three members shall be appointed by the

President Pro Tempore of the Senate, three members shall be

appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and four

members shall be appointed by the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus.

All members shall be appointed by the appropriate appointing

authority for a term of three (3) years commencing with the date

that the previous appointee's term expired. Each member shall serve

1 no more than three (3) terms. The member shall only serve two (2)
2 consecutive terms and shall be inactive for a period of one (1) year
3 prior to serving the maximum three-term limit. In making such
4 appointments, consideration shall be given to making the membership
5 broadly representative of the geographic areas of the state and the
6 several racial and ethnic groups residing in the state. Each member
7 shall hold office until the successor of the member is appointed and
8 has qualified. A member of the Commission may be removed by the
9 appropriate appointing authority for cause. A member appointed to
10 fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term of a member
11 separated from the Commission for any cause shall be appointed for
12 the remainder of the term of the member whose office has been so
13 vacated. Members of the Commission shall receive no salary but
14 shall be entitled to travel reimbursement as provided by the State
15 Travel Reimbursement Act from funds available to the appropriate
16 appointing authority.

17 B. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall
18 provide staff support to the Oklahoma Commission on Race and
19 Equality and make arrangements for suitable meeting space for the
20 Commission as needed.

21 C. The initial chair shall be appointed by the Oklahoma
22 Legislative Black Caucus, with the approval of the Governor,
23 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives. After the initial chair's first term ends, the

1 President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name the chair of the
2 Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality, and the Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives shall name the vice chair. Any other
4 officers deemed necessary shall be elected from among the members at
5 the first meeting of the Commission. Thereafter, at the first
6 meeting of each fiscal year, the Commission shall elect a chair, a
7 vice chair and such other officers deemed necessary to conduct the
8 business of the Commission from among its members. The Commission
9 shall meet at least once every three (3) months and at such other
10 times as called by the chair or by a majority of the Commission.

11 D. The Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality shall have the
12 power and the duty to:

13 1. Advise on equality issues relating to racial discrimination
14 and bias, state agencies and employees, communities, organizations,
15 and businesses of this state which desire the services of the
16 Commission;

17 2. Monitor legislation to determine whether legislation is
18 discriminatory toward one race or ethnicity or whether the race or
19 ethnicity of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement
20 of the legislation;

21 3. Act as a resource and a clearinghouse for research on issues
22 related to racial discrimination and bias;

23 4. Act as a resource in any state appointments to commissions
24 and boards for diversity;

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1 5. Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as
2 appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and

3 6. Report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
4 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of its
5 activities. The report may include recommendations concerning
6 needed legislation or regulatory changes relating to racial
7 discrimination and bias.

8 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13002 of Title 74, unless there
10 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
12 for the Office of Management and Enterprise Services designated the
13 "Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality Revolving Fund". The fund
14 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
15 and shall consist of all gifts and donations contributed to support
16 the work of the Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality. All
17 monies accrued to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and
18 may be budgeted and expended by the Director of the Office of
19 Management and Enterprise Services on behalf of the Oklahoma
20 Commission on Race and Equality for the purposes prescribed by the
21 Legislature in creating the Commission. Expenditures from the fund
22 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against
23 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
24 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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