

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1354

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 the Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality 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.

B. The Commission shall be appointed as follows:

1. Three members shall be appointed by the Governor;

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

3. Three members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

1           4. Four members shall be appointed by the Oklahoma Legislative  
2 Black Caucus.

3           C. All members shall be appointed by the appropriate appointing  
4 authority for a term of three (3) years commencing with the date  
5 that the previous appointee's term expired. Each member shall serve  
6 no more than three (3) terms. The member shall only serve two (2)  
7 consecutive terms and shall be inactive for a period of one (1) year  
8 prior to serving the maximum three-term limit.

9           D. In making such appointments, consideration shall be given to  
10 making the membership broadly representative of the geographic areas  
11 of the state and the racial and ethnic groups residing in the state.

12           E. Each member shall hold office until the successor of the  
13 member is appointed and has qualified.

14           F. A member of the Commission may be removed by the appropriate  
15 appointing authority for cause.

16           G. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the  
17 expiration of a term of a member removed from the Commission for any  
18 cause shall be appointed for the remainder of the term of the member  
19 whose office has been so vacated.

20           H. Members of the Commission shall receive no salary but shall  
21 be entitled to travel reimbursement as provided by the State Travel  
22 Reimbursement Act from funds available to the appropriate appointing  
23 authority.

1 I. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall  
2 provide staff support to the Oklahoma Commission on Race and  
3 Equality and make arrangements for a suitable meeting space for the  
4 Commission as needed.

5 J. The initial chair shall be appointed by the Oklahoma  
6 Legislative Black Caucus, with the approval of the Governor,  
7 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives. After the initial chair's first term ends, the  
9 President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name the chair of the  
10 Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality, and the Speaker of the  
11 House of Representatives shall name the vice chair. Any other  
12 officers deemed necessary shall be elected from among the members at  
13 the first meeting of the Commission. Thereafter, at the first  
14 meeting of each fiscal year, the Commission shall elect a chair, a  
15 vice chair, and such other officers deemed necessary to conduct the  
16 business of the Commission from among its members. The Commission  
17 shall meet at least once every three (3) months and at such other  
18 times as called by the chair or by a majority of the Commission.

19 K. The Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality shall have the  
20 power and duty to:

21 1. Advise on equality issues relating to racial discrimination  
22 and bias, state agencies and employees, communities, organizations,  
23 and businesses of this state which desire the service of the  
24 Commission;

1           2. Monitor legislation to determine whether legislation is  
2 discriminatory toward one race or ethnicity or whether the race or  
3 ethnicity of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement  
4 of the legislation;

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

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

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

11           6. Electronically submit an annual report to the Governor, the  
12 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives on its activities. The report may include  
14 recommendations concerning needed legislation or regulatory change  
15 relating to racial discrimination and bias.

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

19           There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
20 for the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to be  
21 designated the "Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality Revolving  
22 Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal  
23 year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the  
24 Office of Management and Enterprise Services from all gifts and

1 donations provided for the purpose of supporting the work of the  
2 Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality. All monies accruing to  
3 the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted  
4 and expended by the Director of the Office of Management and  
5 Enterprise Services on behalf of the Oklahoma Commission on Race and  
6 Equality for the purpose provided for in this section. Expenditures  
7 from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State  
8 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the  
9 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for  
10 approval and payment.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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