

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 373

By: Bergstrom

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to education; creating the Research and Education Protection Act of 2025; providing short title; providing purpose; defining terms; prohibiting certain institutions and schools from accepting certain things of value from certain sources or countries; requiring public schools and institutions of higher education to disclose certain gifts received after certain date; providing manner of disclosure; requiring submitted information to be forwarded to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES); requiring information to be disclosed on certain website; directing the State Auditor and Inspector to inspect or audit certain gifts upon certain request; requiring public schools and institutions of higher education to disclose offering of certain gifts; providing manner of disclosure; requiring submitted information to be forwarded to OMES to issue a final decision on whether certain gifts may be accepted; directing OMES to develop certain forms and maintain certain website; making certain indirect gifts subject to certain approval process; directing the State Auditor and Inspector to inspect or audit certain gifts upon certain request; requiring public schools and institutions of higher education to disclose certain contracts from certain foreign sources entered into after certain date; providing manner of disclosure; requiring certain information to be submitted to OMES; requiring information to be disclosed on certain website; directing the State Auditor and Inspector to inspect or audit certain contracts upon certain request; requiring public schools and institutions of higher education to disclose certain proposed contracts; requiring submitted information to be forwarded to OMES to issue a final decision on

1 whether a school or institution may enter into
2 certain contract; directing OMES to develop certain
3 forms and maintain certain website; making certain
4 contracts subject to certain approval process;
5 directing the State Auditor and Inspector to inspect
6 or audit certain contracts upon certain request;
7 providing civil penalty for certain failure to
8 disclose certain information; providing for deposit
9 of funds; providing for administrative enforcement of
10 penalty; allowing certain entities to bring civil
11 action for certain enforcement; providing for
12 attorney fees; providing immunity from employment
13 discipline and civil liability to certain employees
14 who make certain reports; providing for reward
15 amount; providing for confidentiality of certain
16 information; prohibiting public schools and
17 institutions of higher education from participating
18 in certain agreements with certain foreign sources;
19 requiring certain cultural exchange agreements to be
20 shared with certain federal and state agencies;
21 providing manner of sharing information; requiring
22 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and
23 the State Board of Education to submit certain annual
24 report by certain date; providing contents of report;
25 prohibiting certain associations from accepting
26 certain gifts or grants or entering into certain
27 contracts; requiring public schools and institutions
28 of higher education that establish certain program or
29 agreement to adopt certain prioritizing policy;
30 requiring institutions of higher education with
31 certain research budget to screen certain applicants
32 and students; directing boards of regents to require
33 submission of certain materials from certain
34 individuals; directing presidents of institutions of
35 higher education to designate a research integrity
36 office; providing purpose of office; requiring
37 certain review prior to interviewing for or offering
38 certain positions; allowing an individual to not be
39 employed for failure to disclose certain information;
40 requiring a research integrity office to report
41 certain information regarding an individual who was
42 rejected for employment on certain basis; directing
43 institutions of higher education to adopt a policy of
44 prioritizing certain foreign researchers; requiring
45 institutions of higher education with certain
46 research budget to establish certain travel approval
47 and monitoring program; providing criteria for

1 certain preapproval; requiring maintenance of certain
2 records of foreign travel requests and approvals for
3 certain time period; requiring submission of certain
4 annual report; requiring certain operation audit by
5 certain date; allowing certain academic partnerships
6 to be entered into or renewed under certain
7 conditions; directing the Governor to appoint certain
8 individual to submit certain report; providing
9 contents of report; providing for severability;
10 providing for codification; providing an effective
11 date; and declaring an emergency.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000

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 24-162 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Research
and Education Protection Act of 2025". The purpose of the act is to
protect research and educational system operations in this state
from malicious influence from foreign countries of concern.

B. As used in this act:

1. "Affiliate organization" means any entity under the control
of or established for the benefit of an organization required to
report pursuant to this section including a direct-support
organization;

2. "Agreement" means a written or spoken statement of mutual
interest in cultural exchange or academic or research collaboration;

3. "Allied countries" means:

- 1 a. nations currently party to any bilateral mutual
2 defense treaties including the North Atlantic Treaty,
3 the Agreement between the United States and Australia
4 and New Zealand, the Philippine Treaty, the Southeast
5 Asia Treaty, the Japanese Treaty, the Republic of
6 Korea Treaty, or the Rio Treaty,
7 b. any nation currently designated as a Major Non-North
8 Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally by the United
9 States Department of State, or
10 c. the Republic of China;

11 4. "Contract" means any agreement for the acquisition by
12 purchase, lease, or barter of property or services for the direct
13 benefit or use of either of the parties;

14 5. "Country of concern" means the People's Republic of China,
15 the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic
16 People's Republic of Korea, the State of Qatar, the Republic of
17 Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, the Syrian Arab
18 Republic, or any foreign terrorist organization designated by the
19 United States Secretary of State in accordance with the Immigration
20 and Naturalization Act, as amended, including any agent of or any
21 other entity under significant control of such foreign country of
22 concern or any other entity deemed by the Governor in consultation
23 with the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security;

1 6. "Direct-support organization" means an organization that is
2 organized and operated to receive, hold, invest, and administer
3 property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of an
4 institution of higher education or for the benefit of a research and
5 development park or research and development authority affiliated
6 with an institution of higher education;

7 7. "Foreign government" means the government of any country,
8 nation, group of nations, or any province or political subdivision
9 of any country, nation, or group of nations other than the
10 government of the United States including any agent of such foreign
11 government;

12 8. "Foreign source" means:

13 a. a foreign government or an agency of a foreign
14 government,

15 b. a legal entity, governmental or otherwise, created
16 solely under the laws of a foreign state or states,

17 c. an individual who is not a citizen or a national of
18 the United States or a territory or protectorate of
19 the United States,

20 d. a partnership, association, corporation, organization,
21 or any other combination of persons organized under
22 the laws of or having its principal place of business
23 in a country of concern of subsidiary of such entity,
24
25

1 e. an agent including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a
2 foreign legal entity acting on behalf of a foreign
3 source,

4 f. a political party or a member of a political party.

5 For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term
6 "political party" means an organization or combination
7 of individuals whose aim or purpose is, or who is
8 engaged in any activity devoted in whole or in part
9 to, the establishment, administration, control, or
10 acquisition of administration or control of a
11 government of a country of concern or a subdivision
12 thereof or the furtherance or influencing of the
13 political or public interest, policies, or relations
14 of a government of a country of concern or subdivision
15 thereof, or

16 g. a program operated for the benefit of a government or
17 political party of a country of concern including, but
18 not limited to, the Thousand Talents Program, any
19 program affiliated with United Front operations, or
20 any program affiliated with a country of concern's
21 ministry of education;

22 9. "Gift" means any gift, grant, endowment, award, or donation
23 of money or property of any kind, or any combination thereof,
24 including a conditional or unconditional pledge of such gift,

1 endowment, award, or donation. For the purposes of this paragraph,
2 pledge means a promise, an agreement, or an expressed intention to
3 give a gift, and grant means a transfer of money for a specified
4 purpose including a conditional gift;

5 10. "Institution of higher education" means an institution of
6 higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
7 Education or a private institution of higher learning located within
8 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of Title 70 of
9 the Oklahoma Statutes;

10 11. "Interest" in an entity means any direct or indirect
11 investment in or loan to an entity valued at five percent (5%) or
12 more of the entity's net worth or any form of direct or indirect
13 control exerting similar or greater influence on the governance of
14 the entity;

15 12. "Partnership" means a faculty or student exchange program,
16 a study abroad program, a matriculation program, a recruiting
17 program, or a dual degree program; and

18 13. "Public school" means a public school district, public
19 charter school, or public statewide virtual charter school.

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-163 of Title 70, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 Upon the effective date of this act, no institution of higher
24 education or public school shall accept any gift, research funding,
25

1 or any other item, service, contract, partnership, or thing of value
2 from a foreign source or from a country of concern.

3 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-164 of Title 70, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. 1. Any public school or institution of higher education
7 that has received directly or indirectly any gift with any value
8 from any foreign source from a country of concern after December 31,
9 2013, shall disclose such gifts in the following manner:

10 a. public schools shall disclose such gifts to the State
11 Board of Education and the State Department of
12 Education within sixty (60) days after the effective
13 date of this act, and

14 b. institutions of higher education shall disclose such
15 gifts to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
16 Education within sixty (60) days after the effective
17 date of this act.

18 2. Unless otherwise prohibited or deemed confidential under
19 state or federal law, disclosure required by this subsection shall
20 include the date the gift was received; the amount of the gift; the
21 purpose of the gift; the identification of the persons the gift was
22 explicitly intended to benefit; any applicable conditions,
23 requirements, restrictions, or terms made part of the gift; the name
24 and country of residence or domicile of the foreign source; the name

1 and mailing address of the disclosing entity; and, as applicable,
2 the date of termination of the gift.

3 3. Information submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this
4 subsection shall be forwarded to the Office of Management and
5 Enterprise Services (OMES), which shall maintain a public web portal
6 to disclose information on past gifts from countries of concern.

7 4. Upon a request from the Governor, the President Pro Tempore
8 of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
9 State Auditor and Inspector shall inspect or audit a past gift or
10 gift agreement.

11 B. 1. Any public school or institution of higher education
12 that has been offered directly or indirectly any gift with any value
13 from a foreign source from a country of concern after the effective
14 date of this act shall disclose such gift in the following manner:

- 15 a. public schools shall disclose such gifts to the State
16 Board of Education and the State Department of
17 Education before accepting such gifts, and
- 18 b. institutions of higher education shall disclose such
19 gifts to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
20 Education before accepting such gifts.

21 2. Unless otherwise prohibited or deemed confidential under
22 state or federal law, disclosure required by this subsection shall
23 include the date the gift was offered; the amount of the gift; the
24 purpose of the gift; the identification of the persons the gift was
25

1 explicitly intended to benefit; any applicable conditions,
2 requirements, restrictions, or terms made part of the gift; the name
3 and country of residence or domicile of the foreign source; the name
4 and mailing address of the disclosing entity; and, as applicable,
5 the date of termination of the gift.

6 3. Information submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this
7 subsection shall be forwarded to OMES. Within thirty (30) days of
8 receiving the disclosure of an offered gift, OMES shall issue a
9 final decision to the public school or institution of higher
10 education on whether and under what conditions the public school or
11 institution of higher education may accept the gift. OMES shall:

- 12 a. develop disclosure forms, rules, and procedures for
13 deciding whether to allow a public school or
14 institution of higher education to accept gifts from
15 countries of concern, and
- 16 b. maintain a public web portal disclosing proposed gifts
17 from countries of concern with the final decision from
18 OMES on whether to allow the public school or
19 institution of higher education to accept the gift.

20 4. For the purposes of this section, a gift received by a
21 public school or institution of higher education from a foreign
22 source through an intermediary shall be considered an indirect gift
23 and shall be subject to the approval process provided for in this
24 subsection.

1 5. Upon the request of the Governor, the President Pro Tempore
2 of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
3 State Auditor and Inspector shall inspect or audit a gift or gift
4 agreement.

5 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-165 of Title 70, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. A public school or institution of higher education that has
9 entered directly or indirectly into any contract with any value from
10 any foreign source from a country of concern after December 31,
11 2013, shall disclose such contracts in the following manner:

12 1. Public schools shall disclose such contracts to the State
13 Board of Education and the State Department of Education within
14 sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act; and

15 2. Institutions of higher education shall disclose such
16 contracts to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education within
17 sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.

18 B. Unless otherwise prohibited or deemed confidential under
19 state or federal law, disclosure required by subsection A of this
20 section shall include the date of the contract; the amount of the
21 contract; the purpose of the contract; the identification of the
22 persons the contract was explicitly intended to benefit; any
23 applicable conditions, requirements, restrictions, or terms made
24 part of the contract; a copy of the contract; the name and country

1 of residence or domicile of the foreign source; the name and mailing
2 address of the disclosing entity; and, as applicable, the date of
3 termination of the contract.

4 C. For the purposes of this section, a contract entered into
5 with a foreign source through an intermediary or affiliate
6 organization shall be considered an indirect contract to the public
7 school or institution of higher education and shall be subject to
8 the disclosure process provided for in this section.

9 D. Information submitted pursuant to subsection A of this
10 section shall be forwarded to the Office of Management and
11 Enterprise Services (OMES), which shall maintain a public web portal
12 to disclose information on past proposed and entered into contracts
13 with countries of concern.

14 E. Upon the request of the Governor, the President Pro Tempore
15 of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
16 State Auditor and Inspector shall inspect or audit a past contract.

17 F. Any public school or institution of higher education that
18 has been offered or has proposed directly or indirectly any contract
19 with any value from or with a foreign source from a country of
20 concern after the effective date of this act shall disclose such
21 proposed contract in the following manner:

22 1. Public schools shall disclose such contract to the State
23 Board of Education and the State Department of Education before
24 entering into such contract; and
25

1 2. Institutions of higher education shall disclose such
2 contract to the State Regents.

3 G. Unless otherwise prohibited or deemed confidential under
4 state or federal law, disclosure required by subsection F of this
5 section shall include the date of the contract; the amount of the
6 contract; the purpose of the contract; the identification of the
7 persons the contract was explicitly intended to benefit; any
8 applicable conditions, requirements, restrictions, or terms made
9 part of the contract; a copy of the contract; the name and country
10 of residence or domicile of the foreign source; the name and mailing
11 address of the disclosing entity; and, as applicable, the date of
12 termination of the contract.

13 H. Information submitted pursuant to subsection F of this
14 section shall be forwarded to OMES. Within thirty (30) days of
15 receiving the disclosure of the offered or proposed contract, OMES
16 shall issue a final decision to the public school or institution of
17 higher education on whether and under what conditions the public
18 school or institution of higher education may enter into the
19 contract. OMES shall:

20 1. Develop disclosure forms, rules, and procedures for deciding
21 whether to allow a public school or an institution of higher
22 education to enter into a contract with a country of concern; and

23 2. Maintain a public web portal disclosing proposed or offered
24 contracts with countries of concern with the final decision from
25

1 OMES on whether to allow the public school or institution of higher
2 education to enter into the contract.

3 I. For the purposes of this section, a contract proposed from a
4 foreign source through an intermediary or affiliate organization
5 shall be considered an indirect contract with the public school or
6 institution of higher education and shall be subject to the approval
7 process provided for in subsection H of this section.

8 J. Upon the request of the Governor, the President Pro Tempore
9 of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
10 State Auditor and Inspector shall inspect or audit a contract
11 entered into pursuant to this section.

12 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-166 of Title 70, unless there
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. A public school or institution of higher education that
16 knowingly, willfully, or negligently fails to disclose the
17 information required by the Research and Education Protection Act of
18 2025 shall be subject to a civil penalty of one hundred and five
19 percent (105%) of the amount of the undisclosed gift or contract,
20 payable only from non-state funds. The recovered funds shall be
21 deposited into the General Revenue Fund. The State Board of
22 Education or the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may
23 administratively enforce the penalty provided for in this section as
24 an administrative penalty.

1 B. In the absence of enforcement by the State Board of
2 Education or the State Regents, the Attorney General or the Office
3 of the State Treasurer may bring a civil action to enforce the
4 provisions of the Research and Education Protection Act of 2025. If
5 such action is successful, the Attorney General or the Office of the
6 State Treasurer shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and
7 costs.

8 C. An employee of a public school or an institution of higher
9 education who in good faith reports an undisclosed foreign gift or
10 contract to the Attorney General or the Office of the State
11 Treasurer shall be immune from employment discipline or civil
12 liability. The reporting employee shall be entitled to receive a
13 reward in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of any penalty
14 recovered by the State Board of Education, the State Regents, the
15 Attorney General, or the Office of the State Treasurer.

16 D. Information reported pursuant to Sections 2 and 3 of this
17 act shall not be deemed confidential except as provided for in the
18 Oklahoma Open Records Act.

19 E. The State Board of Education and the State Regents may adopt
20 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

21 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-167 of Title 70, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
24
25

1 A. A public school or institution of higher education shall not
2 participate in any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign source
3 from a country of concern, or any entity controlled by a country of
4 concern, which:

5 1. Constrains the freedom of contract of such public school or
6 institution of higher education;

7 2. Allows the curricula or values of a program in this state to
8 be directed, controlled, or influenced by a country of concern; or

9 3. Promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of
10 this state, its residents, or the United States.

11 B. Prior to the execution of a cultural exchange agreement with
12 a foreign source from a country of concern, the substance of the
13 agreement shall be shared with:

14 1. Federal agencies concerned with protecting national security
15 or enforcing trade sanctions, embargoes, or other restrictions under
16 federal law. If any federal agency provides information suggesting
17 that such an agreement promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety
18 or security of this state, the United States, or its residents, the
19 public school or institution of higher education may not enter into
20 the agreement; and

21 2. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES). If
22 OMES provides information suggesting that such an agreement promotes
23 an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of this state, the
24

1 United States, or its residents, the public school or institution of
2 higher education may not enter into the agreement.

3 C. By July 1, 2026, and by each July 1 thereafter, each public
4 school shall submit the information required by subsection B of this
5 section to the State Board of Education, and each institution of
6 higher education shall submit the information required by subsection
7 B of this section to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
8 Education.

9 D. By December 1, 2026, and each December 1 thereafter, the
10 State Regents and the State Board of Education shall each
11 electronically submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro
12 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives relating to partnerships and agreements of
14 institutions of higher education and public schools, respectively,
15 made with educational institutions or other institutions based in
16 countries of concern. The report shall include at a minimum the
17 following information for the previous fiscal year:

18 1. Data reflecting any grant program, agreement, partnership,
19 or contract between an institution of higher education and any
20 college, university, or entity that is based in or controlled by a
21 country of concern or between a public school and any private or
22 public school that is based in or controlled by a country of
23 concern;

1 2. Data reflecting any office, campus, or physical location
2 used or maintained by an institution of higher education in a
3 country of concern; and

4 3. The date on which any such grant program, agreement,
5 partnership, or contract reported pursuant to paragraph 1 of this
6 subsection is expected to terminate.

7 E. 1. No students' or scholars' association affiliated with
8 any public school or institution of higher education may accept any
9 gift or grant from a foreign source in a country of concern or enter
10 into any contract or agreement with a foreign source in a country of
11 concern. For the purposes of this subsection, member dues or fees
12 shall not be considered a gift or grant from a foreign source in a
13 country of concern.

14 2. A violation of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this
15 subsection shall result in the public school or institution of
16 higher education ending any affiliation with the students' or
17 scholars' association.

18 F. Each public school or institution of higher education that
19 has established or will establish an exchange program or
20 international cultural agreement concerning the Mandarin dialect of
21 the Chinese language or culture shall adopt a policy of prioritizing
22 partnerships with foreign sources from the Republic of China over
23 partnerships with foreign sources from the People's Republic of
24 China.

1 G. The State Board of Education and the State Regents may adopt
2 regulations and rules to implement the provisions of this section.

3 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-168 of Title 70, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. Each institution of higher education or affiliate thereof
7 that has a research budget of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00)
8 or more shall screen:

9 1. Applicants seeking employment in research or research-
10 related support positions;

11 2. Graduate and undergraduate students applying for research or
12 research-related support positions; and

13 3. Applicants for positions of visiting researcher who are:

14 a. citizens of a foreign country and who are not
15 permanent residents of the United States, or

16 b. citizens and permanent residents of the United States
17 who have any affiliation with an institution or
18 program or at least one year of prior employment or
19 training in a country of concern, with the exception
20 of employment or training by an agency of the United
21 States government.

22 Screening required by this subsection shall be required prior to
23 interviewing such applicants or offering an applicant a position of
24

1 employment or of visiting researcher. An institution of higher
2 education may screen other applicants for such positions.

3 B. In addition to satisfying all employment and enrollment
4 qualifications imposed by federal law, the governing board of
5 regents for each institution of higher education shall:

6 1. Require a foreign applicant to submit a complete copy of his
7 or her passport and most recently submitted Online Nonimmigrant Visa
8 Application, DS-160. After extraction and submission of all
9 information relevant to the requirements of this section, an
10 institution of higher education may destroy or return the copy of
11 the DS-160;

12 2. Require all individuals described in subsection A of this
13 section to submit:

- 14 a. a complete resume and curriculum vitae including every
15 institution of higher education attended,
16 b. all previous employment since the applicant reached
17 the age of eighteen,
18 c. a list of all published material for which the
19 applicant received credit as an author, a researcher,
20 or otherwise to which the applicant contributed
21 significant research, writing, or editorial support,
22 d. a list of the applicant's current and pending research
23 funding from any source including the source of funds,
24

1 the amount, the applicant's role on the project, and a
2 brief description of the research, and

3 e. a full disclosure of non-institution of higher
4 education professional activities including any
5 affiliation with an institution of higher education or
6 program in a country of concern; and

7 3. An institution of higher education may require individuals
8 described in subsection A of this section who have been continually
9 employed or enrolled in an institution of higher education in the
10 United States for twenty (20) years or more to submit employment
11 history prior to the most recent twenty (20) years.

12 C. The president of each institution of higher education or
13 affiliate thereof shall designate a research integrity office to
14 review all materials submitted pursuant to subsection B of this
15 section and take reasonable steps to verify all attendance,
16 employment, publications, and contributions included in the
17 submitted materials. Reasonable steps shall include but not be
18 limited to searching public databases for research publications,
19 presentations, and public conflict of interest records to identify
20 any research publication or presentation that may have been omitted
21 from the materials submitted pursuant to subsection B of this
22 section; contacting all employers of the most recent ten (10) years
23 to verify employment; contacting all institutions of higher
24 education attended to verify enrollment and educational progress;

1 searching public listings of persons subject to sanctions or
2 restrictions under federal law; submitting the applicant's name and
3 other identifying information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation
4 or any federal agency reasonably willing to scrutinize such
5 applicant for national security or counterespionage purposes; and
6 any other steps deemed appropriate. The institution of higher
7 education or affiliate thereof may also direct the research
8 integrity office to approve applicants for hire based on a risk-
9 based determination considering the nature of the research and
10 background and ongoing affiliations of the applicant.

11 D. The provisions of this section shall be completed before an
12 institution of higher education or an affiliate thereof interviews
13 or offers a position to an individual described in subsection A of
14 this section in any research or research-related support position
15 and before granting such individual any access to research data or
16 activities or other sensitive data. An individual described in
17 subsection A of this section may not be employed in any research or
18 research-related support position if he or she fails to disclose a
19 substantial educational, employment, or research-related activity,
20 publication, or presentation at the time of submitting materials
21 required by subsection B of this section unless an institution of
22 higher education department head or his or her designee certifies in
23 writing the substance of the nondisclosure and the reasons for
24 disregarding such failure to disclose. A copy of such certification

1 shall be kept in the investigative file of the research integrity
2 office and shall be submitted to the nearest Federal Bureau of
3 Investigation field office.

4 E. An institution of higher education's research integrity
5 office designated pursuant to subsection C of this section shall
6 report to the nearest Federal Bureau of Investigation field office,
7 any law enforcement agency designated by the Governor, and the board
8 of regents of the institution of higher education or affiliate
9 thereof the identity of the individual who was rejected for
10 employment based on the scrutiny required by this section or other
11 risk-based screening.

12 F. Each institution of higher education shall adopt a policy of
13 prioritizing foreign researchers from allied nations and joint
14 research projects with allied nations in the following order of
15 prioritization:

16 1. Members of the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review
17 Council;

18 2. Current signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty;

19 3. The State of Israel, the Republic of China, the People's
20 Republic of Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and the Republic of
21 India; and

22 4. All other countries including remaining nations designated
23 as a Major Non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally by the
24 United States Department of State and remaining allied countries.

1 G. By July 1, 2026, each institution of higher education or
2 affiliate thereof that has a research budget of Ten Million Dollars
3 (\$10,000,000.00) or more shall establish an international travel
4 approval and monitoring program. The program shall require
5 preapproval and screening by an institution of higher education's
6 research integrity office designated pursuant to subsection C of
7 this section, in addition to any other travel approval process
8 requirements applicable to the institution of higher education.

9 H. 1. Preapproval by an institution of higher education's
10 research integrity office shall be based on the applicant's review
11 and acknowledgement of guidance published by the employing
12 institution of higher education or affiliate thereof which relates
13 to countries of concern, countries under sanction, or other
14 restrictions or designations imposed by this state or the United
15 States government including any federal licensing requirements;
16 customs rules; export controls; restrictions on taking institutional
17 property including intellectual property abroad; restrictions on
18 presentations, teaching, and interactions with foreign colleagues;
19 and other subjects important to the research and academic integrity
20 of the institution of higher education.

21 2. Preapproval by an institution of higher education's research
22 integrity office shall be based on the binding commitment of the
23 individual traveler not to violate the institution of higher
24

1 education's limitations on travel and activities abroad and to obey
2 all applicable federal laws.

3 I. The institution of higher education or affiliate thereof
4 shall maintain records of all foreign travel requests and approvals;
5 expenses reimbursed by the institution of higher education or
6 affiliate thereof during such travel including travel, food, and
7 lodging; and payments and honoraria received during such travel and
8 activities including for travel, food, and lodging. The institution
9 of higher education shall retain the records for at least three (3)
10 years or any longer period of time required by any applicable state
11 or federal law.

12 J. The institution of higher education or affiliate thereof
13 shall provide an annual report of foreign travel to countries of
14 concerns listing individual travelers, foreign locations visited,
15 and foreign institutions visited to its board of regents.

16 K. By July 1, 2026, the State Auditor and Inspector shall
17 perform an operational audit regarding implementation of the
18 provisions of this section.

19 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-169 of Title 70, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. Subject to the approval of its board of regents, an
23 institution of higher education shall only enter into a new or renew
24 an existing academic partnership with an academic or research
25

1 institution located in a country of concern if the institution of
2 higher education maintains sufficient structural safeguards to
3 protect its intellectual property, the security of this state, and
4 the national security interests of the United States. A board of
5 regents shall only approve an institution of higher education's
6 partnership if the board, in consultation with the Office of the
7 Attorney General, determines the partnership meets the following
8 safeguard requirements:

9 1. Compliance with all federal requirements including the
10 requirements of federal research sponsors and federal export control
11 agencies, regulations regarding international traffic in arms and
12 export administration, and economic and trade sanctions administered
13 by the federal Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States
14 Department of the Treasury;

15 2. Annual formal institution-level programs for faculty on
16 conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment; and

17 3. A formalized foreign visitor process and uniform visiting
18 scholar agreement.

19 B. The board of regents of an institution of higher education,
20 in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, shall have
21 full discretion to reject or terminate any research partnership
22 between the institution and an academic or research institution
23 located in a country of concern at any time and for any purpose.

1 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-170 of Title 70, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. No later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of
5 this act, the Governor shall appoint one qualified person who shall
6 be responsible for the "Report on Foreign Influence in Higher
7 Education". The report shall be electronically submitted to the
8 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker
9 of the House of Representatives and shall be published semi-annually
10 on a state website.

11 B. The Report on Foreign Influence in Higher Education:

12 1. Shall investigate and provide oversight of all attempted
13 foreign influence operations in higher education in this state; and

14 2. May include a synthesis of reports from the federal
15 government and state agencies, new findings and ongoing
16 investigations, and recommendations for limiting exposure to foreign
17 influence.

18 SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-171 of Title 70, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 The provisions of the Research and Education Protection Act of
22 2025 are severable and if any part or provision shall be held void,
23 the decision of the court so holding shall not affect or impair any
24

1 of the remaining parts or provisions of the Research and Education
2 Protection Act of 2025.

3 SECTION 11. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 12. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

8
9 60-1-835 EB 1/14/2025 3:50:40 PM

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25