

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 534

By: Pittman

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Arts Council;
8 creating the Cultural Districts Initiative Act;
9 providing short title; defining terms; stating powers
10 and duties; authorizing certain funding and
11 expenditures; creating the Cultural Districts
12 Initiative Revolving Fund; providing for funding and
13 expenditure; providing for codification; and
14 providing an effective date.

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 181 of Title 53, unless there is
18 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Cultural
20 Districts Initiative Act".

21 B. For purposes of the Cultural Districts Initiative Act:

22 1. "Cultural district" means a mixed-use area of a community,
23 either rural or urban, in which a high concentration of arts and
24 cultural facilities or activities serves as the anchor of
attraction. Cultural districts may do any of the following:

- 1 a. attract artists, creative entrepreneurs, creative
2 industries and cultural enterprises to stimulate
3 commerce,
4 b. encourage entrepreneurship and small business
5 development by incentivizing the establishment of new
6 and relocating businesses in the community,
7 c. establish and promote marketable tourism assets
8 highlighting the distinct cultural identity of the
9 community and attracting in-state, out-of-state and
10 international visitors,
11 d. preserve the community's authentic cultural identity
12 by highlighting the region's existing artists and
13 cultural traditions,
14 e. provide opportunities for and mechanisms to recruit
15 and sustain new artists, creative industries and
16 organizations,
17 f. offer arts and cultural programming and events that
18 build a sense of community and foster cross-cultural
19 understanding,
20 g. celebrate the community's uniquely-built environment,
21 encouraging the preservation and reuse of historic
22 buildings and other culturally significant structures,
23 and
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1 h. enhance the quality of life for residents and attract
2 a well-educated and creative workforce to the
3 community; and

4 2. "Certified cultural district" means a cultural district that
5 has been certified by the Oklahoma Arts Council through a
6 competitive application process.

7 C. The Oklahoma Arts Council shall administer the Cultural
8 Districts Initiative Act. The Oklahoma Arts Council shall have
9 powers and duties as follows:

10 1. To implement the Cultural Districts Initiative Act;

11 2. To establish a competitive application process for
12 participation in a cultural district development program that
13 assists communities with further developing existing cultural
14 assets;

15 3. To establish a competitive application and renewal process
16 for certification as a state-designated certified cultural district;

17 4. To provide, whenever possible, state supported assistance
18 for both developing and certified cultural districts including, but
19 not limited to:

20 a. technical assistance in program development and
21 marketing,

22 b. identifying and facilitating local access to other
23 relevant non-profit, state and federal resources and
24 funding opportunities, and

1 c. finding or making referrals to professional service
2 providers that may assist in a district's activities;
3 and

4 5. To collaborate with other public agencies and private
5 entities to enhance visibility and ensure broad and equitable
6 benefits for certified cultural districts.

7 D. Subject to funds available, the Legislature may appropriate
8 funds to the Oklahoma Arts Council for purposes of the Cultural
9 Districts Initiative Act.

10 E. The Oklahoma Arts Council may solicit and receive monies,
11 gifts, donations, bequests, grants and other resources from any
12 public or private source for purposes of the Cultural Districts
13 Initiative Act. The Oklahoma Arts Council may expend any monies
14 received pursuant to the Cultural Districts Initiative Act for any
15 purpose it deems necessary pursuant to the authority of the Cultural
16 Districts Initiative Act.

17 F. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
18 fund for the Oklahoma Arts Council to be designated the "Cultural
19 Districts Initiative Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
20 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
21 consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Arts Council from all
22 state appropriated funds and any monies, gifts, donations, bequests,
23 grants and other sources of funds from any public or private source
24 for the benefit of the Cultural Districts Initiative Act. All

1 monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated
2 and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma Arts Council for
3 the purpose of the Cultural Districts Initiative 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 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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