

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                           1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2821

By: Kendrix of the House

and

**Bergstrom** of the Senate

8  
9                                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10           An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S.  
11           2021, Section 245, which relates to the Oklahoma  
12           Climatological Survey; re-creating the Survey; and  
13           modifying the termination date.

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

15           SECTION 1.           AMENDATORY           74 O.S. 2021, Section 245, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17           Section 245. A. The Climate Office of the State of Oklahoma  
18 located at Norman, Oklahoma, shall be under the direction and  
19 supervision of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma  
20 and shall be known as the Oklahoma Climatological Survey. The  
21 Oklahoma Climatological Survey is hereby re-created, to continue  
22 until July 1, ~~2023~~ 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the  
23 Oklahoma Sunset Law.

1 B. The director of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey shall be  
2 appointed by the Board and shall either serve as the state  
3 climatologist or appoint another current employee of the Survey to  
4 serve as state climatologist. The salary of the director shall be  
5 determined by the Board.

6 C. The Oklahoma Climatological Survey shall have for its object  
7 and duties the following:

8 1. To acquire, archive, process and disseminate, in the most  
9 cost-effective way possible, all climate and weather information  
10 which is or could be of value to policy and decision makers in the  
11 state;

12 2. To act as the representative of the state in all  
13 climatological and meteorological matters both within and outside  
14 the state when requested to do so by the legislative or executive  
15 branches of the state government;

16 3. To prepare, publish and disseminate periodic regular climate  
17 summaries for those individuals, agencies and organizations whose  
18 activities are related to the welfare of the state and are affected  
19 by climate and weather;

20 4. To conduct and report on studies of climate and weather  
21 phenomena of significant socioeconomic importance to the state;

22 5. To evaluate the significance of natural and man-made,  
23 deliberate and inadvertent changes or modifications in important  
24 features of the climate and weather affecting the state, and to

1 report this information to those agencies and organizations in the  
2 state who are likely to be affected by such changes or  
3 modifications; and

4 6. To maintain and operate the Oklahoma Mesonet, a  
5 statewide environmental monitoring network which is overseen by the  
6 Mesonet Steering Committee, comprised of representatives of the  
7 University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University according to  
8 its Memorandum of Agreement. The director of the Oklahoma  
9 Climatological Survey shall be accountable for executing the  
10 policies of the Mesonet Steering Committee.

11 D. The director is authorized to certify copies as being  
12 authentic reproductions of weather records held in the state.

13 E. The director of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey shall  
14 present a report each year to the Board of Regents of the University  
15 of Oklahoma showing the progress, condition and all other  
16 information which the Board may deem necessary.

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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, dated  
19 02/16/2023 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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