

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2943

By: McCall of the House

and

Treat of the Senate

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3213, as amended by Section 627, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 and Section 1, Chapter 252, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Sections 3213 and 3213.2), which relate to the University Center of Southern Oklahoma; renaming University Center of Southern Oklahoma; transferring control of certain funds and accounts; designating the Board of Regents of Murray State College as the administrative agency; dissolving certain board of trustees; updating references to name; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3407.2, which relates to the Board of Regents of Murray State College; updating Board name; modifying membership of the Board; transferring the University Center of Southern Oklahoma to Murray State College; listing items included in the transfer; transferring title to buildings, improvements and real property; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Higher education

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3213, as amended by Section 627, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 3213), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3213. A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall make educational program resources ~~at institutions~~

~~in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education available to the people in the Ardmore area which resources shall be known as the University Center of Southern Oklahoma through a branch campus of Murray State College known as "Murray State College at Ardmore". The State Regents shall draw upon the educational programs of institutions best suited to provide the kind of educational programs needed and shall, in pursuance of Article XIII-A of the Constitution of Oklahoma and appropriate statutes, set the standards of education as they relate to the programs operated to assure that credits earned by students will be fully accepted at institutions of higher education to which the students may transfer the credit to apply toward an educational study objective. The State Regents may establish appropriate funds and accounts, including a revolving fund, in the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for servicing the fiscal operations of the University Center of Southern Oklahoma. Such funds Funds and accounts established for servicing the fiscal operations of the institution formerly known as the University Center of Southern Oklahoma shall be subject to the direct supervision, management, and control of the ~~board of trustees~~ created by Board of Regents of Murray State College as provided in subsection B of this section. The people locally shall provide suitable physical plant accommodations for the program.~~

B. ~~There is hereby created a board of ten (10) trustees to be appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate to The Board of Regents of Murray State College created in Section 3407.2 of this title shall serve as the administrative agency for the institution formerly known as the University Center of Southern Oklahoma, now known as Murray State College at Ardmore pursuant to Section 4 of this act. The board shall be a body corporate and shall adopt and use an official seal. The board so created shall have the authority to submit a budget annually to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, administer monies budgeted by the State Regents, negotiate agreements with institutions for courses and programs of study approved by the State Regents, provide educational facilities, recommend courses and programs to be offered by participating institutions, select a chief executive officer whose duties include the general coordination of approved programs and services and the selection of other appropriate nonteaching personnel. The board of trustees is authorized to expend all monies allocated to the University Center of Southern Oklahoma as may be necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the board by this section. For purposes of acquiring and taking title to real and personal property from sources other than state appropriations, the board is authorized to enter into contracts and~~

~~to adopt rules and regulations pertaining to such actions. The initial nine members shall serve their terms for the period to which originally appointed, in numbered positions having dates of expiration identical to the dates of expiration of the original appointments:~~

~~Position No. 1. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1986, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 2. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1987, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 3. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1988, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 4. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1989, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 5. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1990, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 6. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1991, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 7. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1992, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 8. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1993, and each nine (9) years thereafter;~~

~~Position No. 9. The term of office of one member shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1994, and each nine (9) years thereafter.~~

~~The tenth member shall be appointed to Position No. 10, the term of office of which shall expire on the 30th day of June, 1996, and each nine (9) years thereafter.~~

~~The board shall organize and elect a chair, vice chair and secretary annually.~~

~~C. The board of trustees may establish and maintain plans for tenure and retirement of its employees and for payment of deferred compensation of employees and may provide hospital and medical benefits, accident, health and life insurance and annuity contracts~~

~~for employees and pay for all or part of the cost thereof with funds available for payment of its operating expenses.~~

~~D. The board may establish with the State Treasurer any accounts as are necessary to operate retirement, deferred compensation or benefits plans for its employees. The accounts shall be revolving funds not subject to fiscal year limitations. Funds deposited in such accounts may be invested in any of the types of instruments in which the State Treasurer is authorized by law to invest.~~

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 252, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 3213.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3213.2 A. The educational program resources provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in Ardmore, Oklahoma, shall continue at the same location and are hereby officially named and shall be designated in all future references as ~~the "University Center of Southern Oklahoma "~~"Murray State College at Ardmore".

B. The name change prescribed in this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever any legal relationships, bonds, contracts, title to property, obligations, ~~authority of the board of trustees as set forth in Section 3213 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title or Section 4 of this act,~~ or any other aspect of the legal status of the named program for any purpose, except that the program shall be referred to as ~~the "University Center of Southern Oklahoma "~~"Murray State College at Ardmore" in all future references to the program.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3407.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3407.2 A. The Board of Regents of Murray State College ~~of Technology~~ shall consist of seven (7) members, including one member who is a resident of Ardmore, Oklahoma, appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The regular term of each member shall be seven (7) years, except that the initial appointments shall be for lesser terms so that the term of only one member shall expire each year.

B. The Board of Regents of Murray State College ~~of Technology~~ shall be a body corporate, and shall adopt and use an official seal.

It shall annually elect a ~~chairman~~ chair, a ~~vice-chairman~~ vice-chair, and a secretary, each of whom shall serve for a term of one (1) fiscal year and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, and who shall perform such duties as the Board directs. The Board shall adopt rules and regulations as it deems necessary for the governing of the Board and the discharge of its duties, and shall cause to be kept the minutes of all meetings and transactions considered at each meeting, in a suitable book to be obtained and kept for such purpose. The Board of Regents of Murray State College ~~of Technology~~ shall be the governing board of the College and shall have the supervision and management thereof and shall have the same powers and duties as governing boards of other institutions in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, and may do all things necessary or convenient to make the College effective for the purpose for which it is operated.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3407.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The facility known as the University Center of Southern Oklahoma in Ardmore, Oklahoma, is hereby transferred to Murray State College and shall be known as "Murray State College at Ardmore". The transfer shall include all real property, buildings, furniture, equipment, supplies, records, assets, current and future liabilities, fund balances, encumbrances, obligations, indebtedness, legal agreements, powers, duties and responsibilities associated with the University Center of Southern Oklahoma.

B. All monies remaining in any funds or accounts in the name of the University Center of Southern Oklahoma or maintained for the benefit of the University Center of Southern Oklahoma shall be transferred to Murray State College.

C. The title to all buildings, improvements and real property, as described in subsection A of this section, comprising the facility known as the University Center of Southern Oklahoma in Ardmore, Oklahoma, is hereby transferred to Murray State College at Ardmore.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of May, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 12th day of May, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____