

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 411 of Title 53, unless there is
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Heritage
5 Preservation Act".

6 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 412 of Title 53, unless there is
8 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Historical
10 Society the Heritage Preservation Grant Program to provide financial
11 assistance to cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, and tribal
12 governments to operate and improve the effectiveness of museums and
13 historical organizations.

14 B. The purpose of the Heritage Preservation Grant Program is to
15 encourage the collecting, preserving, and sharing of Oklahoma
16 history at the grassroots level in all parts of the state.

17 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 413 of Title 53, unless there is
19 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. The Oklahoma Historical Society shall adopt rules
21 establishing the Heritage Preservation Grant Program including, but
22 not limited to, eligibility criteria, the application process, and
23 grant award amounts.

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1 B. The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors shall
2 create weighted criteria to evaluate each application based on the
3 potential for project sustainability, the impact on the scope of
4 collections, public participation, and programming possibilities.

5 C. Oklahoma Historical Society staff shall evaluate each
6 application based on the weighted criteria and adherence to program
7 requirements that include, but are not limited to, geographical
8 balance, local financial match, and the existence of a strategic
9 plan for the applicant organization, tribal division or governmental
10 department. The evaluations shall be provided to the Heritage
11 Preservation Grant Selection Committee of the Oklahoma Historical
12 Society Board of Directors.

13 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 414 of Title 53, unless there is
15 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 Entities eligible for grants from the Heritage Preservation
17 Program shall be limited to Oklahoma municipal and county
18 governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and nonprofit
19 organizations incorporated within Oklahoma.

20 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 415 of Title 53, unless there is
22 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 Grants awarded under the Heritage Preservation Program shall not
24 be used for capital improvements or repairs. Grants may be used

1 only for operating expenses for eligible entities engaged in
2 collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma heritage. Preference
3 will be given to projects affecting collections, educational
4 programs, and exhibits. Grants may be used to support the
5 development of strategic plans.

6 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 416 of Title 53, unless there is
8 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. The President of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of
10 Directors shall appoint an Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant
11 Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing all grant
12 applications. The committee shall consist of five (5) to seven (7)
13 members.

14 B. The committee shall meet on a schedule to be established by
15 the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors.

16 C. The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Review Committee
17 shall be provided the Oklahoma Historical Society staff evaluations
18 of each application along with staff recommendations.

19 D. The final recommendations of the Oklahoma Heritage
20 Preservation Grant Review Committee shall be presented to the
21 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors for action.

22 E. The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors shall
23 have the duty of awarding Heritage Preservation Grants to entities
24 under the provisions of this act.

1 F. Each member of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant
2 Review Committee shall serve without compensation except that each
3 member of the Committee shall receive reimbursement for travel
4 expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act,
5 Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

6 G. The meetings of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of
7 Directors shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section
8 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and the Oklahoma
9 Open Records Act, Section 24A.1 et seq. of Title 51 of the Oklahoma
10 Statutes.

11 H. Staff support for the execution of this act shall be
12 provided by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

13 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 417 of Title 53, unless there is
15 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
17 fund for the Oklahoma Historical Society to be designated the
18 Heritage Preservation Revolving Fund. The fund shall be a
19 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
20 consist of all monies deposited into the fund by law, gift,
21 donation, grant or Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors
22 allocation.

23 B. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
24 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma

1 Historical Society for the purpose of providing grants for the
2 collecting, preserving, and sharing of Oklahoma heritage pursuant to
3 the Heritage Preservation Act. Monies accruing to the credit of the
4 fund may also be used for direct costs of administering the
5 provisions of this act.

6 C. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants
7 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
8 law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

9 SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
10 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
15 04/09/2015 - DO PASS.

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