

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 297

By: Justice and Pittman of the
Senate

3 and

4 Sears of the House

5
6
7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Historical Society;
8 creating the Heritage Preservation Act; creating the
9 Heritage Preservation Grant Program; directing the
10 Society to adopt certain rules and regulations;
11 requiring Society to create application and
12 evaluation criteria for grants; providing for
13 evaluations; establishing eligibility requirements
14 for certain entities; creating restrictions for use
15 of grants; creating the Oklahoma Heritage
16 Preservation Grant Review Committee; authorizing the
17 Board of Directors to appoint committee members;
18 requiring the committee to meet and enact certain
19 procedures; authorizing the Board of Directors to
20 award grants; requiring Society to provide staff
21 support; creating the Heritage Preservation Revolving
22 Fund; providing for deposits; setting forth
23 limitations on monies deposited in the fund;
24 providing for codification; and declaring an
emergency.

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

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

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

4 A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Historical
5 Society the Heritage Preservation Grant Program to provide financial
6 assistance to cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, and tribal
7 governments to operate and improve the effectiveness of museums and
8 historical organizations.

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

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

15 A. The Oklahoma Historical Society shall adopt rules
16 establishing the Heritage Preservation Grant Program including, but
17 not limited to, eligibility criteria, the application process, and
18 grant award amounts.

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

23 C. Oklahoma Historical Society staff shall evaluate each
24 application based on the weighted criteria and adherence to program

1 requirements that include, but are not limited to, geographical
2 balance, local financial match, and the existence of a strategic
3 plan for the applicant organization, tribal division or governmental
4 department. The evaluations shall be provided to the Heritage
5 Preservation Grant Selection Committee of the Oklahoma Historical
6 Society Board of Directors.

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

10 Entities eligible for grants from the Heritage Preservation
11 Program shall be limited to Oklahoma municipal and county
12 governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and nonprofit
13 organizations incorporated within Oklahoma.

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

17 Grants awarded under the Heritage Preservation Program shall not
18 be used for capital improvements or repairs. Grants may be used
19 only for operating expenses for eligible entities engaged in
20 collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma heritage. Preference
21 will be given to projects affecting collections, educational
22 programs, and exhibits. Grants may be used to support the
23 development of strategic plans.

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

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

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

11 C. The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Review Committee
12 shall be provided the Oklahoma Historical Society staff evaluations
13 of each application along with staff recommendations.

14 D. The final recommendations of the Oklahoma Heritage
15 Preservation Grant Review Committee shall be presented to the
16 Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors for action.

17 E. The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors shall
18 have the duty of awarding Heritage Preservation Grants to entities
19 under the provisions of this act.

20 F. Each member of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant
21 Review Committee shall serve without compensation except that each
22 member of the Committee shall receive reimbursement for travel
23 expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act,
24 Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

1 G. The meetings of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of
2 Directors shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section
3 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and the Oklahoma
4 Open Records Act, Section 24A.1 et seq. of Title 51 of the Oklahoma
5 Statutes.

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

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

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

18 B. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
19 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma
20 Historical Society for the purpose of providing grants for the
21 collecting, preserving, and sharing of Oklahoma heritage pursuant to
22 the Heritage Preservation Act. Monies accruing to the credit of the
23 fund may also be used for direct costs of administering the
24 provisions of this act.

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

4 SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health and 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 Passed the Senate the 10th day of March, 2015.

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11 Presiding Officer of the Senate

12 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
13 2015.

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15 _____
16 Presiding Officer of the House
17 of Representatives