

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 297

By: Justice and Pittman of the  
Senate

and

Sears and Hoskin of the  
House

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Historical Society; creating the Heritage Preservation Act; creating the Heritage Preservation Grant Program; directing the Society to adopt certain rules and regulations; requiring Society to create application and evaluation criteria for grants; providing for evaluations; establishing eligibility requirements for certain entities; creating restrictions for use of grants; creating the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Review Committee; authorizing the Board of Directors to appoint committee members; requiring the committee to meet and enact certain procedures; authorizing the Board of Directors to award grants; requiring Society to provide staff support; creating the Heritage Preservation Revolving Fund; providing for deposits; setting forth limitations on monies deposited in the fund; and providing for codification.

SUBJECT: Creating the Heritage Preservation Act and its powers and duties

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".

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. Oklahoma Historical Society staff shall evaluate each application based on the weighted criteria and adherence to program requirements that include, but are not limited to, geographical balance, local financial match, and the existence of a strategic plan for the applicant organization, tribal division or governmental department. The evaluations shall be provided to the Heritage

Preservation Grant Selection Committee of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed the Senate the 10th day of March, 2015.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of April, 2015.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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: \_\_\_\_\_