

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 427

By: Young

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to state government; creating the  
8 Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality; providing  
9 for membership, appointment, terms, removal,  
10 vacancies and reimbursement; providing for meetings  
11 and officers; providing for staff and meeting space;  
12 providing for powers and duties; establishing  
13 revolving fund; providing for codification; and  
14 providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 777 of Title 74, unless there is  
18 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Commission on Race and  
20 Equality. The Commission shall consist of thirty (30) members. The  
21 members shall be appointed as follows: eight members shall be  
22 appointed by the Governor, eight members shall be appointed by the  
23 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, eight members shall be  
24 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and six  
25 members shall be appointed by the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus.  
26 All members shall be appointed by the appropriate appointing

1 authority for a term of three (3) years commencing with the date  
2 that the previous appointee's term expired. Each member shall serve  
3 no more than three terms. The member shall only serve two  
4 consecutive terms and shall be inactive for a period of one (1) year  
5 prior to serving the maximum three-term limit. In making such  
6 appointments, consideration shall be given to making the membership  
7 broadly representative of the geographic areas of the state and the  
8 several racial and ethnic groups residing in the state. Each member  
9 shall hold office until the successor of the member is appointed and  
10 has qualified. A member of the Commission may be removed by the  
11 appropriate appointing authority for cause. A member appointed to  
12 fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term of a member  
13 separated from the Commission for any cause shall be appointed for  
14 the remainder of the term of the member whose office has been so  
15 vacated. Members of the Commission shall receive no salary but  
16 shall be entitled to travel reimbursement as provided by the State  
17 Travel Reimbursement Act from funds available to the appropriate  
18 appointing authority.

19 B. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall  
20 provide staff support to the Oklahoma Commission on Race and  
21 Equality and make arrangements for suitable meeting space for the  
22 Commission as needed.

23 C. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name the chair  
24 of the Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality, and the Speaker of  
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1 the House of Representatives shall name the vice-chair. Any other  
2 officers deemed necessary shall be elected from among the members at  
3 the first meeting of the Commission. Thereafter, at the first  
4 meeting of each fiscal year, the Commission shall elect a chair, a  
5 vice-chair and such other officers deemed necessary to conduct the  
6 business of the Commission from among its members. The Commission  
7 shall meet at least once every three (3) months and at such other  
8 times as called by the chair or by a majority of the Commission.

9 D. The Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality shall have the  
10 power and the duty to:

11 1. Advise on equality issues relating to racial discrimination  
12 and bias, state agencies and employees, communities, organizations  
13 and businesses of this state which desire the services of the  
14 Commission;

15 2. Monitor legislation to determine whether legislation is  
16 discriminatory toward one race or ethnicity or whether the race, or  
17 ethnicity of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement  
18 of the legislation;

19 3. Act as a resource and a clearinghouse for research on issues  
20 related to racial discrimination and bias;

21 4. Act as a resource in any state appointments to commissions  
22 and boards for diversity,

23 5. Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as  
24 appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and

1           6. Report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the  
2 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of its  
3 activities. The report recommendations may include recommendations  
4 concerning needed legislation or regulatory changes relating to  
5 racial discrimination and bias.

6           SECTION 2.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 777.1 of Title 74, unless there  
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9           There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
10 for the Office of Management and Enterprise Services designated the  
11 "Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality Revolving Fund". The fund  
12 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,  
13 and shall consist of all gifts and donations contributed to support  
14 the work of the Oklahoma Commission on Race and Equality. All  
15 monies accrued to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and  
16 may be budgeted and expended by the Director of the Office of  
17 Management and Enterprise Services on behalf of the Oklahoma  
18 Commission on Race and Equality for the purposes prescribed by the  
19 Legislature in creating the Commission. Expenditures from the fund  
20 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against  
21 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of  
22 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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