

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 773

By: Rosino

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to aerospace and aeronautics; amending 3 O.S. 2021, Section 374, which relates to the Oklahoma Advanced Mobility Pilot Program; modifying scope of certain program; allowing certain department to select pilot programs; amending 3 O.S. 2021, Section 421, which relates to unmanned aircraft systems development; expanding scope of certain commission; updating statutory language; creating the Oklahoma Advanced Air Mobility Revolving Fund; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 3 O.S. 2021, Section 374, is amended to read as follows:

Section 374. A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Department of Transportation the Oklahoma Advanced Mobility Pilot Program. ~~Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Program will identify and select communities in this state to serve as pilot programs for the adoption of advanced mobility technologies~~ The program shall focus on developing and improving on transportation technologies, including but not limited to advanced ground

1 transportation, autonomous ground vehicles, advanced air mobility  
2 vehicles, and autonomous electric vertical take-off and landing  
3 (eVTOL) vehicles. The program will also look to enhance the  
4 interaction between modes of transportation to ensure the state is  
5 best prepared for the interconnected transportation technologies of  
6 the future.

7 ~~B. The Program will focus on both advanced ground~~  
8 ~~transportation, such as autonomous ground vehicles, as well as~~  
9 ~~advanced air mobility vehicles such as electric vertical take off or~~  
10 ~~landing (eVTOL) vehicles.~~

11 ~~C. The Department of Transportation shall identify and select~~  
12 ~~government entities in this state that are eligible to serve as~~  
13 ~~pilot programs for the adoption of advanced mobility technologies.~~

14 Eligible ~~communities~~ entities will be cities, counties and tribal  
15 governments. Priority will be given to ~~communities and tribal~~  
16 ~~governments~~ entities that have been selected to participate in  
17 transportation-related pilot programs by the United States  
18 Department of Transportation after January 1, 2017.

19 ~~D. C.~~ The Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation shall create the  
20 Advanced Mobility Program Advisory Council comprised of nine (9)  
21 members selected by the ~~Oklahoma~~ Secretary of Transportation to  
22 represent a diverse set of stakeholders involved with the adoption  
23 of advanced mobility technologies. The Council shall provide  
24 policy, regulatory, and any other necessary recommendations to the

1 ~~Oklahoma~~ Secretary of Transportation on ~~policy and regulatory~~ issues  
2 related to the adoption of advanced mobility technologies.

3 ~~E.~~ D. Subject to the availability of funds, the Program shall  
4 make two matching grant awards each year to the selected pilot  
5 programs to support ~~pilot~~ program activities. The awards shall be  
6 up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) each and ~~will be~~  
7 shall require a direct one-to-one match for nonstate funds invested  
8 or received by the pilot including funds from the pilot entity.

9 ~~F.~~ E. The ~~Oklahoma~~ Department of Transportation shall have the  
10 power to make any contract, execute any document or perform any act  
11 in order to carry out this act.

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 3 O.S. 2021, Section 421, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 421. A. The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is hereby  
15 established as the clearinghouse for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)  
16 and advanced air mobility (AAM) in the State of Oklahoma this state  
17 and shall be designated as the agency of this state for the  
18 promotion, enhancement and development of UAS and AAM as well as any  
19 associated infrastructure necessary to ensure the safe integration  
20 and use of this new technology within the state. The purpose of  
21 this clearinghouse is to create a partnership between those entities  
22 that currently operate UAS, those that desire to use this technology  
23 in the future and other entities that can support the research and  
24 development of UAS to ensure that the ~~State of Oklahoma~~ state can

1 more effectively respond to the needs of this critical sector of the  
2 aviation and aerospace industry. In the operation of this  
3 clearinghouse, the Commission shall cooperate, assist and coordinate  
4 with the federal government, agencies of this state, tribal  
5 entities, municipalities and other persons in the development of  
6 unmanned aircraft systems throughout the state to ensure the  
7 acceptance of this technology and the successful integration of UAS  
8 into the National Airspace System. Contingent upon the availability  
9 of funds, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission may use established  
10 program processes or may contract with other qualified entities to  
11 carry out the duties and responsibilities of ~~this act~~ the Unmanned  
12 Aircraft Systems Development Act of 2021.

13 B. The primary goal of the ~~UAS~~ clearinghouse within the  
14 Commission is to establish a central point within state government  
15 to develop the strategy for how the ~~State of Oklahoma~~ state can  
16 become a leader in the UAS and AAM industry. It will focus the  
17 collective resources, knowledge, information and assets within state  
18 government to ensure coordinated efforts amongst all parties. The  
19 clearinghouse will:

20 1. Conduct research on what other states and localities are  
21 doing insofar as their UAS rules and regulations so that it can  
22 provide recommendations to ensure ~~Oklahoma~~ the state is in the best  
23 position within the industry;

1           2. Organize and coordinate the application for any UAS or AAM  
2 test site, integration opportunity, pilot program or grant funding  
3 on behalf of the ~~State of Oklahoma~~ the state;

4           3. Maintain a registry of UAS being operated by state agencies,  
5 except those UAS that are part of a university-affiliated research  
6 program; and

7           4. Maintain a registry of educational institutions that offer  
8 training programs for users of UAS.

9           SECTION 3.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 403 of Title 3, unless there is  
11 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12           There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
13 for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission to be designated the  
14 "Oklahoma Advanced Air Mobility Revolving Fund". The fund shall be  
15 a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall  
16 consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Tax Commission which  
17 are specifically required by law to be deposited in the fund, any  
18 public or private donations, contributions and gifts received for  
19 the benefit of the fund, and any amounts appropriated by the  
20 Legislature. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are  
21 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma  
22 Aeronautics Commission for the purpose of investing in advanced air  
23 mobility and unmanned aircraft systems and associated  
24 infrastructure. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon

1 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as  
2 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and  
3 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

4 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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