

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1910

By: Alonso-Sandoval of the
House

3 and

4 Nice of the Senate

5
6 An Act relating to environment and natural resources; providing a
7 short title; providing for the establishment and administration of
8 the Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program; providing for purpose of
9 program; providing funding source; providing for promulgation of
10 program guidelines once funding is available; requiring conservation
11 districts to enter into contracts for eligible projects detailing
12 responsibilities; defining terms; providing considerations for
13 program guidelines; requiring applicants to submit certain
14 information, forms, and reports; providing that persons may apply to
15 a conservation district for cost share funds for eligible urban
16 agriculture initiatives; providing requirements to receive a
17 reimbursement; providing for approval and denial of applications;
18 requiring the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to prepare and post
19 certain statistical data; requiring dissemination of data to certain
20 state cabinet secretaries; providing for liability of state;
21 amending 27A O.S. 2021, Section 3-2-110, which relates to Oklahoma
22 Conservation Commission Infrastructure Revolving Fund; expanding
23 purpose of fund to include funding the Urban Agriculture Cost Share
24 Program; providing for codification; and providing an effective
date.

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 3-3-601 of Title 27A, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Urban
Agriculture Cost Share Program".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-602 of Title 27A, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is hereby authorized to
5 establish and administer an Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program as
6 funds become available. The Cost Share Program shall provide monies
7 to eligible persons.

8 B. The purpose of the Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program is
9 to promote sustainable urban agricultural practices, improve food
10 security, and enhance green spaces in Oklahoma's urban areas.

11 C. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission Infrastructure
12 Revolving Fund shall provide funding for the Urban Agriculture Cost
13 Share Program. When sufficient funds are available in the Oklahoma
14 Conservation Commission Infrastructure Revolving Fund, the
15 Commission shall develop and disseminate the program guidelines to
16 the conservation districts containing urban areas. The guidelines
17 shall detail incentives to eligible persons for initiating and
18 continuing urban agriculture initiatives.

19 D. To implement the program, the Commission shall require
20 conservation districts to enter into contracts for eligible projects
21 on eligible land detailing the eligible person's responsibilities.

22 E. For purposes of the Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program:

23 1. "Eligible person" means any individual, partnership,
24 corporation, or legally recognized Indian tribe which shall include

1 | land held in trust, estate, or trust who as an owner, lessee,
2 | tenant, or operator participates in the care or management of land
3 | within a conservation district;

4 | 2. "Eligible land" means land that is within five (5) miles of
5 | an urban area that is:

- 6 | a. privately owned land within the state,
- 7 | b. land owned by the state or a political subdivision of
8 | the state, or
- 9 | c. lands temporarily owned by the United States or a
10 | corporation wholly owned by it, which were not
11 | acquired or reserved for conservation purposes,
12 | including lands administered by the Farm Service
13 | Agency, the U.S. Department of Defense, or by any
14 | other government agency;

15 | 3. "Eligible projects" means urban agriculture projects that
16 | include, but are not limited to:

- 17 | a. establishing or expanding community gardens in urban
18 | neighborhoods,
- 19 | b. rooftop and vertical farming,
- 20 | c. installing greenhouses, high tunnels, or hoop houses
21 | for food production,
- 22 | d. installing rainwater harvesting systems and efficient
23 | irrigation for urban farming,

- 1 e. enhancing soil health through composting and nutrient
2 management in urban areas,
3 f. establishing urban apiaries,
4 g. planting urban pollinator gardens,
5 h. building livestock infrastructure such as chicken
6 coops or goat enclosures,
7 i. developing and implementing education programs on
8 urban farming practices,
9 j. creating, operating, and maintaining an urban food
10 waste composting program,
11 k. urban marketing initiatives for Oklahoma farms to sell
12 in urban areas, and
13 l. other projects that accomplish the objectives and
14 purpose of this Cost Share Program; and

15 4. "Urban Area" means the areas in Oklahoma which have been

16 defined by the United States Census Bureau as urban areas based on
17 certain criteria and utilizing data from the most recent Federal
18 Decennial Census.

19 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-603 of Title 27A, unless
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 When developing the guidelines for an Urban Agriculture Cost
23 Share Program, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall consider:

1 1. Prioritizing projects in geographic areas where residents
2 have low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and
3 affordable food;

4 2. Building on existing urban agriculture projects to continue
5 to grow community engagement;

6 3. Reviewing approved cost-share methods available through
7 USDA-NRCS to promote urban agriculture, improve urban food security,
8 and enhance green spaces in urban areas; and

9 4. Evaluating if other federal, state, or Oklahoma tribal
10 programs can be enhanced by the inclusion of practices in the
11 Commission's Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program.

12 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-604 of Title 27A, unless
14 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. The Conservation Commission shall require applicants to
16 submit information, forms and reports as necessary to properly and
17 efficiently administer the Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program.

18 B. Persons may apply to a conservation district for cost share
19 funds for eligible urban agriculture initiatives in the State of
20 Oklahoma, in accordance with the Cost Share Program year guidelines
21 prepared yearly by the Commission. To be eligible for reimbursement
22 for an urban agriculture cost share project, an eligible person
23 shall:

1 1. Develop and file for review and approval with the
2 conservation district a project plan that details the urban
3 agriculture project plans, location of project, materials needed,
4 expected expenditure, length of time expected to complete project
5 construction, monitoring or operation plan if applicable, and
6 expected community benefit of project; and

7 2. Enter into a contract with a conservation district detailing
8 the responsibilities of the eligible person for the initial Cost
9 Share Program year as well as any potential continuing
10 responsibilities that are required to operate and maintain the
11 project, if applicable.

12 C. Applications for funds shall be approved or denied by the
13 conservation district in accordance with promulgated criteria
14 prepared by the Commission.

15 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-605 of Title 27A, unless
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 Upon the conclusion of each Cost Share Program year, the
19 Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall prepare and post on the
20 agency website the statistical data for number and type of urban
21 agriculture projects, funds expended, and urban community impacts by
22 urban area of the cost share practices for that program year. This
23 same information shall also be shared with the state cabinet
24 Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and Environment.

1 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-606 of Title 27A, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 Nothing in this act or in the contract executed pursuant to
5 Section 4 of this act shall be interpreted or construed to
6 constitute a financial or general obligation of the state. No state
7 revenue shall be used to guarantee or pay for any damages to
8 property or injury to persons as a result of the provisions of this
9 act or the contract.

10 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 27A O.S. 2021, Section 3-2-110, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 3-2-110. A. There is hereby created in the State
13 Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission
14 to be designated the "Oklahoma Conservation Commission
15 Infrastructure Revolving Fund".

16 B. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal
17 year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the
18 Oklahoma Conservation Commission from the apportionment of gross
19 production tax revenues as prescribed by Section 1004 of Title 68 of
20 the Oklahoma Statutes.

21 C. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby
22 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma
23 Conservation Commission for the purpose of the rehabilitation of
24 watershed dams and, for the Conservation Cost Share Program, the

Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

3 D. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants
4 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
5 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
6 Services for approval and payment.

7 E. No more than thirty percent (30%) of the monies in the fund
8 shall be used for the payment of administrative expenses, salary or
9 any other continuing obligation of the Oklahoma Conservation
10 Commission; provided, however, such monies shall not be used for
11 salary increases for employees.

12 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

13 Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

18 Passed the Senate the day of , 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate