

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1910

By: Alonso-Sandoval of the
House

6 and

7 **Nice** of the Senate

9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-601 of Title 27A, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

9 A. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is hereby authorized to
10 establish and administer an Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program as
11 funds become available. The Cost Share Program shall provide monies
12 to eligible persons.

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

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

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

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

5 1. "Eligible person" means any individual, partnership,
6 corporation, or legally recognized Indian tribe which shall include
7 land held in trust, estate, or trust who as an owner, lessee,
8 tenant, or operator participates in the care or management of land
9 within a conservation district;

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

12 a. privately owned land within the state,
13 b. land owned by the state or a political subdivision of
14 the state, or
15 c. lands temporarily owned by the United States or a
16 corporation wholly owned by it, which were not
17 acquired or reserved for conservation purposes,
18 including lands administered by the Farm Service
19 Agency, the U.S. Department of Defense, or by any
20 other government agency;

21 3. "Eligible projects" means urban agriculture projects that
22 include, but are not limited to:

23 a. establishing or expanding community gardens in urban
24 neighborhoods,

- 1 b. rooftop and vertical farming,
- 2 c. installing greenhouses, high tunnels, or hoop houses
- 3 for food production,
- 4 d. installing rainwater harvesting systems and efficient
- 5 irrigation for urban farming,
- 6 e. enhancing soil health through composting and nutrient
- 7 management in urban areas,
- 8 f. establishing urban apiaries,
- 9 g. planting urban pollinator gardens,
- 10 h. building livestock infrastructure such as chicken
- 11 coops or goat enclosures,
- 12 i. developing and implementing education programs on
- 13 urban farming practices,
- 14 j. creating, operating, and maintaining an urban food
- 15 waste composting program,
- 16 k. urban marketing initiatives for Oklahoma farms to sell
- 17 in urban areas, and
- 18 l. other projects that accomplish the objectives and
- 19 purpose of this Cost Share Program; and

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

21 defined by the United States Census Bureau as urban areas based on

22 certain criteria and utilizing data from the most recent Federal

23 Decennial Census.

1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-3-603 of Title 27A, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

9 2. Building on existing urban agriculture projects to continue
10 to grow community engagement;

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

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

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

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

23 B. Persons may apply to a conservation district for cost share
24 funds for eligible urban agriculture initiatives in the State of

1 Oklahoma, in accordance with the Cost Share Program year guidelines
2 prepared yearly by the Commission. To be eligible for reimbursement
3 for an urban agriculture cost share project, an eligible person
4 shall:

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

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

16 C. Applications for funds shall be approved or denied by the
17 conservation district in accordance with promulgated criteria
18 prepared by the Commission.

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

22 Upon the conclusion of each Cost Share Program year, the
23 Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall prepare and post on the
24 agency website the statistical data for number and type of urban

1 agriculture projects, funds expended, and urban community impacts by
2 urban area of the cost share practices for that program year. This
3 same information shall also be shared with the state cabinet
4 Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and Environment.

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

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

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

16 Section 3-2-110. A. There is hereby created in the State
17 Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission
18 to be designated the "Oklahoma Conservation Commission
19 Infrastructure Revolving Fund".

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

1 C. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby
2 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma
3 Conservation Commission for the purpose of the rehabilitation of
4 watershed dams and, for the Conservation Cost Share Program, the
5 Urban Agriculture Cost Share Program, and the Conservation Reserve
6 Enhancement Program.

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

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

16 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.
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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OVERSIGHT, dated 03/05/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.
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