

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

4                   HOUSE BILL 1547

By: Patzkowsky of the House

5                   and

6                   Pederson of the Senate

9                   AS INTRODUCED

10                  An Act relating to agricultural fairs and  
11                  expositions; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-24,  
12                  which relates to items to be considered in  
13                  expenditure of funds; modifying language; permitting  
14                  consideration of certain communications and  
15                  supporting equipment; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section  
16                  15-55, which relates to election of officers and  
17                  directors of the county fair association; requiring  
18                  voting window; providing procedures for removal of  
19                  officers and directors; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section  
20                  15-58, which relates to items to be considered in  
21                  expenditure of funds; modifying language; permitting  
22                  consideration of certain communications and  
23                  supporting equipment; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section  
24                  15-70, which relates to annual levy in support and  
25                  maintenance of fair; permitting use of funds for  
26                  certain communications and supporting equipment; and  
27                  providing an effective date.

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

29                  SECTION 1.       AMENDATORY       2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-24, is  
30                  amended to read as follows:

31                  Section 15-24. A. The executive board shall:

1       1. Make an estimate of the cost of the free district fair;  
2       2. Apportion to each of the counties comprising the association  
3       the portion to be borne by each member county together with the plan  
4       and items of expenditures; and

5       3. Certify the estimate to the county excise board in each of  
6       the member counties in time to be acted on by the county excise  
7       board at its annual meeting for making tax levies.

8       B. The items to be considered in the expenditure of funds shall  
9       be for:

10      1. Premiums on livestock, poultry, fruit, agriculture,  
11     horticultural and dairy products; boys' and girls' club work, school  
12     exhibits, culinary products, textile products, needlework and  
13     sewing, hand painting, decorating and drawing, and cultivated plants  
14     and flowers;

15      2. The necessary expenses of management of free district fairs  
16     organized under the provisions of this article, including office  
17     expense, postage, ~~telegraph and telephone, digital and electronic~~  
18     communication, Internet and supporting equipment, traveling expenses  
19     of secretary within the district in which the fair is held, printing  
20     (except premium lists) and necessary office supplies, premium  
21     ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards, superintendents and  
22     judges; and

1       3. Advertising the fair and for decorating and cleaning the  
2 grounds and buildings, and for caring for the grounds during the  
3 fair.

4       SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-55, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6       Section 15-55. A. As soon as practicable, prior to July first,  
7 after the election of members of the county fair association, the  
8 members elect shall meet at the county seat and shall perfect an  
9 organization by the election of a president, vice president,  
10 secretary and a board of directors. The members elect shall  
11 designate a day where they shall have a twelve-hour window to vote  
12 for the election of a president, vice president, secretary, and  
13 board of directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the  
14 president, vice president, secretary and four members, and such  
15 committees and officers as shall be deemed necessary. The secretary  
16 may be selected outside of the association, but must be a resident  
17 of the county seat or the town or city where the county fair is  
18 held.

19       B. The president, vice president, secretary, or any member of  
20 the board of directors may be removed from their position for  
21 failure to attend at least fifty percent (50%) of meetings in a  
22 calendar year. The president, vice president, secretary, and  
23 members of the board of directors may be removed from their  
24 positions by a unanimous vote of all other members.

1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-58, is

2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 15-58. A. The executive board, with such committee as  
4 may be selected from the county fair association, shall make an  
5 estimate of the cost of the township and county fairs, and shall  
6 certify such estimate to the county excise board in time to be acted  
7 upon by the county excise board at its annual meeting for making tax  
8 levies.

9 B. The items to be considered in the expenditure of funds shall  
10 be for:

11 1. Premiums on livestock, poultry, agricultural and  
12 horticultural products, dairy products, boys' and girls' club work,  
13 products of domestic science and domestic arts, school exhibits,  
14 hand painting, decorating and drawing, manufactured articles,  
15 cultivated plants and flowers;

16 2. Necessary expenses of management of township and county  
17 fairs organized under the provisions of this article, including  
18 office expenses, postage, ~~telegraph~~ and telephone, digital and  
19 electronic communication, Internet and supporting equipment, salary  
20 and traveling expenses of the secretary, printing and necessary  
21 office supplies, premium ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards,  
22 superintendents and judges;

1       3. Advertising the fairs and for decorating and cleaning the  
2 grounds and buildings, and for caring for the grounds and buildings;  
3 and

4       4. Transportation and arrangement of township fair exhibits at  
5 the county fair and county fair exhibits at the Oklahoma State Fair  
6 and other State Fairs.

7       SECTION 4.       AMENDATORY       2 O.S. 2021, Section 15-70, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9       Section 15-70. A. The county commissioners, the county excise  
10 board and all other proper officers of the county may make an annual  
11 levy upon all taxable property in the county in an amount not to  
12 exceed one-half (1/2) of one (1) mill per annum in counties of more  
13 than fifteen thousand (15,000) population. In counties of less than  
14 fifteen thousand (15,000) population, the proper officers of the  
15 county may make an annual levy upon all taxable property in the  
16 county of not exceeding one (1) mill per annum. The purpose of the  
17 levy is to raise funds for:

18       1. The support and maintenance of the fair, including the  
19 payment of premiums on livestock, poultry, agricultural and  
20 horticultural products, dairy products, boys' and girls' club work  
21 or other junior agricultural organizations which shall be in one  
22 class, products of domestic science and domestic arts, farm women's  
23 clubs, hand paintings, cultivated plants and flowers;

1       2. Necessary expenses of management of said fair, including  
2 office expenses, postage, ~~telegraph~~ and telephone, digital and  
3 electronic communication, Internet and supporting equipment, salary  
4 and traveling expenses of the secretary, printing and necessary  
5 office supplies;

6       3. Premium ribbons and badges, clerical help, guards,  
7 superintendents and judges;

8       4. Advertising, decorating and cleaning the grounds and  
9 buildings; and

10      5. The repair of or erecting buildings owned and controlled by  
11 said county that are or will be used for free fair purposes.

12      B. In the counties of this state having a population in excess  
13 of fifty-five thousand (55,000), according to the 1940 Federal  
14 Decennial Census and in which county there is not authorized a state  
15 fair, it shall be the mandatory duty of the county commissioners and  
16 the excise board and other officers of the county, to make annual  
17 levy for the purposes specified by this section upon all taxable  
18 property in such county of not less than one-fourth (1/4) of one (1)  
19 mill per annum.

20      SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

21  
22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT, dated  
23 02/27/2025 - DO PASS.  
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