

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2821

6 By: Kendrix

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S.
9 2021, Section 245, which relates to the Oklahoma
10 Climatological Survey; re-creating the Survey; and
11 modifying the termination date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 245, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 245. A. The Climate Office of the State of Oklahoma
17 located at Norman, Oklahoma, shall be under the direction and
18 supervision of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma
19 and shall be known as the Oklahoma Climatological Survey. The
20 Oklahoma Climatological Survey is hereby re-created, to continue
21 until July 1, ~~2023~~ 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the
22 Oklahoma Sunset Law.

23 B. The director of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey shall be
24 appointed by the Board and shall either serve as the state

1 climatologist or appoint another current employee of the Survey to
2 serve as state climatologist. The salary of the director shall be
3 determined by the Board.

4 C. The Oklahoma Climatological Survey shall have for its object
5 and duties the following:

6 1. To acquire, archive, process and disseminate, in the most
7 cost-effective way possible, all climate and weather information
8 which is or could be of value to policy and decision makers in the
9 state;

10 2. To act as the representative of the state in all
11 climatological and meteorological matters both within and outside
12 the state when requested to do so by the legislative or executive
13 branches of the state government;

14 3. To prepare, publish and disseminate periodic regular climate
15 summaries for those individuals, agencies and organizations whose
16 activities are related to the welfare of the state and are affected
17 by climate and weather;

18 4. To conduct and report on studies of climate and weather
19 phenomena of significant socioeconomic importance to the state;

20 5. To evaluate the significance of natural and man-made,
21 deliberate and inadvertent changes or modifications in important
22 features of the climate and weather affecting the state, and to
23 report this information to those agencies and organizations in the
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1 state who are likely to be affected by such changes or
2 modifications; and

3 6. To maintain and operate the Oklahoma Mesonet, a
4 statewide environmental monitoring network which is overseen by the
5 Mesonet Steering Committee, comprised of representatives of the
6 University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University according to
7 its Memorandum of Agreement. The director of the Oklahoma
8 Climatological Survey shall be accountable for executing the
9 policies of the Mesonet Steering Committee.

10 D. The director is authorized to certify copies as being
11 authentic reproductions of weather records held in the state.

12 E. The director of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey shall
13 present a report each year to the Board of Regents of the University
14 of Oklahoma showing the progress, condition and all other
15 information which the Board may deem necessary.

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