ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1929

BY: ROACH, SATTERFIELD, TYLER and BOYD of the HOUSE

and

ROZELL and LONG (Lewis) of the SENATE

AN ACT RELATING TO POOR PERSONS; AMENDING 56 O.S. 1991, SECTION 236, WHICH RELATES TO LEGAL SERVICES; CLARIFYING LANGUAGE; PROHIBITING CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR PRIVATE LEGAL COUNSEL; PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS AND PROCEDURES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 1991, Section 236, is amended to read as follows:

Section 236. A. The ~~Oklahoma Public Welfare~~ Commission for Human Services shall establish or provide for a legal division or unit in the Department of ~~Public Welfare, and the~~ Human Services. The Director of ~~Public Welfare~~ the Department of Human Services shall employ attorneys as needed, which may be on full-time and part-time basis~~, which~~. Such attorneys, in addition to advising the Commission, Director and Department personnel on legal matters, may appear for and represent the Commission, Director and Department in legal actions and proceedings. Provided, that it shall continue to be the duty of the Attorney General to give his official opinion to

the Commission, Director or Department, and to prosecute and defend actions therefor, if requested to do so.

B. The Commission shall not contract for private legal counsel except for extraordinary situations other than normal day-to-day situations and when approved by the Attorney General that such contract for legal counsel is in the best interests of the state to prosecute or defend actions on behalf of the Department.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of March, 1992.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1992.

President of the Senate