

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2162

BY: MADDUX (Elmer) and BATES
of the HOUSE

and

CAPPS of the SENATE

(COUNTIES AND COUNTY OFFICERS - REQUIRING
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ATTEND A CERTAIN
INSTITUTE - REQUIRING RECORDS OF
CERTIFICATION - CODIFICATION -
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 456 of Title 19, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Each person elected or appointed for the first time as a member of a board of county commissioners on or after July 1, 1994, shall be required to attend the County Commissioners Accreditation Institute for Newly Elected County Commissioners within forty-five (45) days after being elected to office. The Institute shall consist of at least twelve (12) hours of instruction. A certificate of completion shall be awarded upon successful completion of the Institute.

B. The County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board shall establish guidelines and procedures to allow any person elected or appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of county commissioner, or any county commissioner who is unable to attend or complete the

Institute within the time prescribed because of medical disability, providential cause or any other reason deemed sufficient by the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board, to comply with the requirement prescribed in this section. Failure to successfully complete the Institute for any reason within six (6) months after being elected or appointed to office shall result in twenty-five percent (25%) of the monthly salary or compensation and monthly travel allowance of the county commissioner being held in a separate account until such time the Institute is completed. When completion of the Institute is not achieved within the time prescribed, the Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology shall notify the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board of the commissioner's failure to complete the Institute. The County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board shall then notify the State Auditor and Inspector of such failure. The State Auditor and Inspector shall then notify the appropriate board of county commissioners and the county treasurer of such failure. The county treasurer shall hold such salary or compensation in a separate account until such time the Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology notifies the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board that completion of the Institute has been achieved. The County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board shall then notify the State Auditor and Inspector of such completion. The State Auditor and Inspector shall then notify the appropriate board of county commissioners and the county treasurer of such completion. Upon notification to the county treasurer the total amount held in the account shall be released to the county commissioner.

C. There is created the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board which shall consist of the board of directors and the executive director of the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government

Technology and the Cooperative Extension Service. The curriculum for the Institute shall be developed by the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board and shall include but not be limited to county finance and budget process, personnel management, ethics, and purchasing procedures.

D. Any person required to attend this Institute shall be reimbursed by the county, if funds are available, for actual expenses associated with attendance at the Institute as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. The Institute shall be held at the various times and locations as determined by the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board.

F. Each official designated to receive filings from candidates for the office of county commissioner shall notify the candidate of the requirement for attendance at the Institute as provided for in this section.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 457 of Title 19, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Each county commissioner in office or assuming office on or after January 1, 1995, shall be required to achieve educational accreditation as prescribed by this section.

B. Within one (1) year from the date a county commissioner is elected to or assumes office, the county commissioner shall be required to successfully complete accreditation.

C. Failure to achieve such accreditation within the time prescribed shall result in twenty-five percent (25%) of the monthly salary or compensation and monthly travel allowance of the county commissioner being held in a separate account until such time accreditation is achieved. When accreditation is not achieved within the time prescribed, the Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology shall notify the County Commissioners

Accreditation Advisory Board. The County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board shall then notify the State Auditor and Inspector of such failure. The State Auditor and Inspector shall then notify the appropriate board of county commissioners and county treasurer of such failure. The county treasurer shall hold such salary or compensation in a separate account until such time the Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology notifies the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board that accreditation has been achieved. The County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board shall then notify the State Auditor and Inspector of such completion. The State Auditor and Inspector shall then notify the appropriate board of county commissioners and the county treasurer of such completion. Upon notification to the county treasurer the total amount held in the account shall be released to the county commissioner.

D. Failure to achieve accreditation by the end of the second year in office for such county commissioner shall result in the amount of salary or compensation withheld pursuant to the provisions of subsection C of this section being forfeited by such county commissioner unless such failure is due to reasons of medical disability, providential cause or any other reason deemed sufficient by the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board. The amount forfeited shall be returned to the account in the county treasury from which it was originally appropriated.

E. Each county commissioner who has successfully completed accreditation shall be required to annually complete a continuing education requirement of six (6) hours per year. Failure to complete the continuing education requirement shall result in twenty-five percent (25%) of the monthly salary or compensation and monthly travel allowance of the county commissioner being held in a separate account until such time the requirement is completed. The salary or compensation shall be withheld in the manner prescribed in

subsection C of this section. Continuing education shall consist of successful completion of academic units on changes in Oklahoma Statutes affecting the duties and responsibilities of county commissioners or other topics appropriate to the improvement of county commissioners' offices.

F. The Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology and the Cooperative Extension Service shall provide the necessary classes, seminars and materials in support of the accreditation and continuing education requirements. The Association of County Commissioners may, upon approval of the County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board, provide classes, seminars and materials in support of the accreditation and continuing education requirements. The County Commissioners Accreditation Advisory Board shall develop educational requirements, curriculum materials, appropriate study resources and examinations for the accreditation and continuing education requirements established in this section.

G. For purposes of the administration of the accreditation requirements, the Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology shall be responsible for keeping an official record as to the accreditation of individual county commissioners and shall issue the accreditations to all persons who have so qualified.

H. Any person required to complete accreditation or continuing education as provided in this section shall be reimbursed by the county, if funds are available, for actual expenses associated with attendance at such courses as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

I. Each official designated to receive filings from candidates for the office of county commissioner shall notify the candidate of the requirement for accreditation as provided for in this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective September 1, 1992.

Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of March, 1992.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1992.

President of the Senate