

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1408

BY: MATLOCK

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT; AMENDING 74 O.S. 1981, SECTION 500.18, AS LAST AMENDED BY SECTION 50, CHAPTER 258, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. SUPP. 1990, SECTION 500.18), WHICH RELATES TO EXEMPTIONS FROM THE STATE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT ACT; ADDING AN EXEMPTION; REPEALING SECTION 3, CHAPTER 351, O.S.L. 1989 (74 O.S. SUPP. 1990, SECTION 500.18), WHICH IS A DUPLICATE SECTION RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM THE STATE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT ACT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1981, Section 500.18, as last amended by Section 50, Chapter 258, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 500.18), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.18 A. Except for members of the Legislature, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, provisions of Sections 500.1 through 500.18 of this title shall be mandatory as to all officials and employees of all departments, boards, commissions and institutions of the state, regardless of the provisions of any other

act of the Legislature, except as provided by this section. The enactment of any measure in the future providing for travel reimbursement of state officers and employees on the basis of "actual and necessary" expenses or in any other manner inconsistent with Sections 500.1 through 500.18 of this title shall be deemed to provide for reimbursement in accordance with Sections 500.1 through 500.18 of this title unless a contrary intent is explicitly expressed in this section. Sections 500.1 through 500.18 of this title shall not apply, however, to travel reimbursements made by political subdivisions of this state, except as otherwise provided by law.

B. The agencies listed below are authorized certain exceptions and/or exemptions to the provisions of Sections 500.1 through 500.18 of this title to the extent specified:

1. State Department of Agriculture:

The actual and reasonable expenses of travel and subsistence in pursuing and developing markets for Oklahoma agricultural products incurred by the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and such employees designated by the State Board of Agriculture within the marketing development programs of the Department of Agriculture shall be reimbursed to the employee incurring such expenses. Reimbursement of such expenses shall be in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Board. Such expenses claimed shall, prior to reimbursement, be reviewed by the Board at each regular meeting and individually approved or disapproved.

2. Wheat Utilization, Research and Market Development Commission:

The actual and reasonable expenses of travel, lodging and subsistence in pursuing and developing markets for Oklahoma wheat and wheat products incurred by the Commission, staff and such persons authorized by the Commission shall be reimbursed to the person incurring such expenses. Expenses of wheat trade officials

on wheat trade missions from foreign countries and from other states can be reimbursed to the person previously authorized by the Commission to incur the expense. No actual and reasonable expenses shall be paid except for time spent working with wheat trade officials on wheat trade missions. Reimbursement of such expenses shall be made in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Commission. Such expenses claimed shall, prior to reimbursement, be reviewed by the Commission at each regular meeting and individually approved or disapproved.

3. Department of Public Safety:

Not more than seven personnel assigned by the Commissioner for executive security shall be allowed their actual and necessary traveling expenses, upon claims approved by the Commissioner, when traveling with the Governor or at his request.

4. Department of Corrections:

The Department of Corrections shall be exempt from limitations of reimbursement for rented automobiles, as set forth in Section 500.5 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, when such rental is by a Correctional Officer or Transportation Officer for the limited purpose of transporting inmates. Reimbursement for such expense shall be on the basis of actual cost.

5. Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department:

Authorization is provided the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission and Department staff who promote in-state and out-of-state business to Oklahoma's state-operated parks and lodges and the tourism and recreation industry, the actual and necessary expense of travel, subsistence and entertainment for this purpose. Reimbursement of all actual and necessary expenses shall be in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Commission on Tourism and Recreation. Such expenses claimed shall prior to reimbursement be reviewed by the Commission at each regular meeting and individually approved or disapproved.

6. Oklahoma Department of Commerce:

- a. The actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Director and other employees of the Department authorized by the Director for the purpose of business recruitment shall be reimbursed to such employee. Reimbursement of such expenses shall be in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Such expenses claimed shall prior to reimbursement be reviewed by the Director and individually approved or disapproved.
- b. The Department, at the discretion of the Director, may charter aircraft for the purposes of carrying out its duties and responsibilities related to business recruitment and to implement the duties of the Director. The cost of such charter shall be exempt from the provisions of Section 500.6 of this title. Claims filed with the Office of State Finance shall bear the following certification:

The best interests of the citizens of Oklahoma were better served in that conventional ground transportation was not practical or feasible for this trip, aircraft from the Department of Public Safety was not available for this trip, and no other claim has been or will be filed as a payment for the cost of transportation in connection with this trip herein claimed.

7. Office of Public Affairs:

The actual expenses of travel and subsistence incurred by the Director, Assistant Director and any employee approved by the Director of the Office of Public Affairs outside the state in recruiting and evaluating professional money managers for the state's pension funds shall be reimbursed to the employee incurring

such expenses. Reimbursement for lodging expenses shall be supported by three telephone bids from hotels within a reasonable distance of the activity for which the travel was approved.

8. Oklahoma Futures:

The actual and necessary expenses incurred by the members of Oklahoma Futures in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed to the members incurring such expenses. Reimbursement of all actual and necessary expenses shall be in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by Oklahoma Futures.

9. Oklahoma Development Finance Authority:

The actual and necessary expenses incurred by the members and employees of the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed to the person incurring such expenses. Reimbursement of all actual and necessary expenses shall be in accordance with the bylaws of the Authority.

10. Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology:

The actual and necessary expenses incurred by the members and employees of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed to the person incurring such expenses. Reimbursement of all actual and necessary expenses shall be in accordance with the bylaws of the Center.

11. Center for International Trade Development:

The actual and necessary expenses of travel, lodging and subsistence incurred by the Director and authorized employees of the Center for International Trade Development for performance of their duties for the purpose of business recruitment and assistance shall be reimbursed to the person incurring such expenses. Reimbursement of such expenses shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Director of the Center for International Trade Development. Such expenses claimed shall be reviewed and

individually approved or disapproved, prior to reimbursement, first by the Director, and finally by either the Vice President, Business and Finance of Oklahoma State University or the President of Oklahoma State University.

12. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation:

The actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Director and other employees of the Bureau authorized by the Director as a result of conducting investigations shall be reimbursed to each such employee incurring the expenses. Reimbursement of the expenses shall be in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Prior to reimbursement, expenses claimed shall be reviewed by the Director and individually approved or disapproved.

13. Department of Human Services:

- a. The actual and necessary expenses of travel, lodging and subsistence incurred by employees of the Legal Division in the performance of their duties for the purpose of representing the Department of Human Services or any of its officials, employees, institutions or hospitals at any proceeding, including depositions, held before any court, administrative body or representative thereof, shall be reimbursed to the employee incurring such expenses. Such expenses claimed shall be approved by the General Counsel and the Director of Human Services prior to reimbursement.
- b. The Department, at the discretion of the Director, may charter aircraft when determined by the Director such charter would be more practical or less expensive than normal modes of transportation and when aircraft of the Department of Public Safety are unavailable. The costs of such charter shall be exempt from the provisions of Section 500.6 of this title.

14. Attorney General:

The actual and necessary expenses of travel, lodging and subsistence incurred by the Attorney General or Assistant Attorneys General in the performance of their duties for the purpose of representing the state or any of its agencies, officials or employees, at any proceeding, including depositions, held before any court or administrative body or representative thereof, or which is required to represent the interests of the state or its agencies necessary for the closing of any debt transaction, shall be reimbursed to the Attorney General or the Assistants incurring such expenses. Such expenses claimed shall be approved by the Attorney General or the First Assistant prior to reimbursement.

C. The agencies listed in subsection B of this section shall be required to report annually the actual expenses excepted or exempted from Sections 500.1 through 500.18 of this title to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report shall be submitted no later than the first day of September following the end of each fiscal year.

SECTION 2. REPEALER Section 3, Chapter 351, O.S.L. 1989 (74 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 500.18), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1991.

SECTION 4. 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.

43-1-5551

SCE