

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 184

By: Stipe

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to transportation, state government and waterways; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 5001, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 1992 (74 O.S. Supp. 1992, Section 5001), which relates to the Tulsa Division of Department of Commerce; transferring certain powers and duties to Department of Transportation; creating a waterways branch within the Department of Transportation Planning Division; describing purpose; delineating authority and responsibility of duties; creating the Oklahoma Waterways Advisory Board; establishing membership; prescribing duties; repealing Section 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 1992 (82 O.S. Supp. 1992, Section 1701), which relates to the Division of Waterways within the Department of Commerce; providing for codification; 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. 1991, Section 5001, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 1992 (74 O.S. Supp. 1992, Section 5001), is amended to read as follows:

Section 5001. A. The Oklahoma Economic Development Commission, the Office of the Governor - Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Economic and Community Affairs, are hereby abolished.

B. All powers, duties, responsibilities, property, personnel, assets, liabilities, fund balances, encumbrances and obligations of the Oklahoma Economic Development Commission, the Office of the Governor - Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Economic and Community Affairs are hereby transferred to the

Oklahoma Department of Commerce or other appropriate governmental entity as provided for in this act. As soon as possible the offices and staff of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall be moved to a common location.

C. The current Tulsa field office of the Department of Commerce shall be designated as the Tulsa Division of the Department of Commerce. The Tulsa Division shall include, but not be limited to the following services: ~~The Division of Waterways of the Department of Commerce,~~ film industry promotion, international trade recruitment and export assistance, trade reference, business expansion and start-up, small business assistance, economic and community development financing, and economic and community development.

All powers, duties, responsibilities, property, personnel, and assets of the Division of Waterways of the Department of Commerce abolished by this act are hereby transferred to the Department of Transportation.

The Department of Commerce shall transfer only those employees requesting to be transferred to the Tulsa Division, provided the employee meets the criteria established by the Department for positions to be placed in the Tulsa Division, and shall fill any remaining positions at the Tulsa Division through accrued vacancies within the Department of Commerce.

D. All powers, duties, responsibilities, property, personnel, assets, liabilities, fund balances, encumbrances and obligations of the film industry program in the Marketing Division of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation are hereby transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

E. The Director of Public Affairs and Director of State Finance shall coordinate the transfers made pursuant to subsections B and D of this section.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4018 of Title 69, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Planning Division, a Waterways Branch. The

Director of the Department of Transportation shall appoint such employees necessary to implement and effectuate the provisions of this section. The Waterways Branch shall assume the duties and functions previously performed by the Division of Waterways within the Department of Commerce. The Transportation Commission is hereby authorized to adopt rules necessary to effectuate the operation of the Waterways Branch.

B. The Waterways Branch shall have the primary purpose and responsibility of promoting the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System which constitutes Oklahoma's navigable waterways. Additionally, the Department of Transportation acting through the Waterways Branch shall have the authority to:

1. Encourage commercial use of the state's navigable waterways for the purpose of the transportation of goods;
2. Assist state, federal and municipal entities in the attraction and location of waterways-related industries;
3. Assist and coordinate public and private entities in and with the development of river, port and harbor facilities;
4. Aggressively pursue federal funding for construction and maintenance projects of all necessary improvements to navigational systems;
5. Coordinate with local and state development agencies to ensure a better understanding of the state's navigable waterways in a manner that will result in the use and growth of the state's transportation resources and facilities of this state;
6. Study and coordinate efforts designed to promote the development of the navigable stream areas in this state for water transportation purposes;
7. Monitor and intercede on behalf of and to represent the State of Oklahoma before any agency of the United States government in matters pertaining to the application of fees, tolls or user charges levied or contemplated to be levied against the water transportation industry engaged in either intrastate or interstate water commerce;

8. Receive and use any federal, state or private funds, donations and grants made available for the development, use and expansion of river transportation resources of this state;

9. Cooperate and enter into contracts with the federal government or any agency thereof or agencies of other states such as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, provided that no such contract may obligate or potentially obligate any state funds or the full faith and credit of the State of Oklahoma unless express legislative authorization is given therefor;

10. Represent this state in the promotion of the development of commercial water transportation in this state and to cooperate with other states, other agencies of this state or agencies of the United States government, in any manner whatsoever, in an effort to develop the commercial use of the waterways in this state;

11. Study all executive orders and legislation, state and federal, which may affect the commercial development of interstate or intrastate water transportation and to make recommendations concerning any such executive orders or legislation;

12. Make studies and plans for the expansion, use and growth of the water transportation resources and facilities of this state; and

13. Do and perform all other functions for and on behalf of the state which may be necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes of this section.

C. 1. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Waterways Advisory Board. Members of the Board shall be selected and appointed by the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. The Oklahoma Waterways Advisory Board shall consist of seven (7) members qualified as follows:

- a. two members shall be the Executive Directors of the two active, public ports, commonly known as the Port of Catoosa and the Port of Muskogee,
- b. two members shall be appointed from private port operations which have existing waterfront cargo

handling facilities and which regularly employ the use of barge transportation,

- c. one member shall be appointed from the public at large who shall be an economist with not less than five (5) continuous years of bona fide experience in inland navigation feasibility studies, operation, maintenance and rehabilitation issues and possess demonstrated knowledge of the maritime and towing industry, and
- d. two members shall be appointed at large from business and/or industry associated with inland navigation.

2. All members shall continue in office until replaced.

Members of the Board shall not be compensated or receive travel reimbursement. The membership shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson and shall meet as necessary.

3. The Board shall:

- a. serve in an advisory capacity to the Department of Transportation, the Governor's office and the Legislature in accomplishing its mission,
- b. assist in the development of rules, standards, policies, procedures and directions of the Waterways Branch of the Department of Transportation regarding its duties and responsibilities authorized by this section, and
- c. recommend specific public and private actions that would enable this state to utilize its waterways to promote future growth.

4. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation may, as funds and staff are available, provide support and assistance to the Board.

SECTION 3. REPEALER Section 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 1992 (82 O.S. Supp. 1992, Section 1701), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1993.

SECTION 5. 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.

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