

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1445

By: Crocker, Paulk and Tyler
of the House

and

Hobson of the Senate

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 79, which relates to travel reimbursement; authorizing higher education institutions to accept certain competitive bids for certain travel; authorizing certain contracts and agreements; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 79, is amended to read as follows:

Section 79. A. There is hereby created the State Travel Division within the Purchasing Division of the ~~Office of Public Affairs~~ Department of Central Services.

B. On and after the effective date of this act, all agencies and departments of this state shall make arrangements for all air travel on scheduled commercial airlines for state employees required to travel in the course of their official duties and for all other persons traveling at state expense through the State Travel Division, except when any such agency or department determines that:

1. The air travel services can be secured at a cost less than that which can be secured by the State Travel Division; or
2. The air travel originates from a location outside the state and it would be impractical to arrange for the air travel through the State Travel Division; or
3. The air travel is necessitated by an emergency and time does not permit utilization of the State Travel Division's services; or
4. The air travel is part of a package arrangement made by the organization scheduling the meeting or conference.

C. All claims made for reimbursement shall contain a statement showing the reason for the exemption.

D. The State Travel Division shall divide the state into high travel areas and low travel areas. A high travel area shall consist of no more than one county. Oklahoma, Tulsa, Payne and Cleveland Counties and any other county that accounts for a substantial portion of air travel at state expense shall be designated as high travel areas. The remaining counties of the state shall be designated as low travel areas. Low travel areas may consist of more than one county, as determined by the State Travel Division. The State Travel Division shall contract with no less than six private travel agencies in a high travel area and one or more private travel agencies in a low travel area to provide the scheduling and related travel services required to comply with this section. In order to take advantage of local competitive situations, institutions of higher education in high travel areas are authorized to solicit competitive bids for air travel services by travel agencies. If the bids result in greater savings than the

state contract, then these institutions may issue individual contracts to not less than two travel agencies. Further, institutions of higher education in high travel areas are also authorized to solicit competitive bids for applicable city pair destination rates to airline companies. If the bids result in a greater savings than the state contract rates, these institutions may issue individual contracts to the airline companies with the lowest bids.

E. The State Travel Division shall promulgate rules and regulations and contract specifications to which the contract travel agencies shall be subject. The rules, regulations and specifications shall be drawn with the intent of obtaining the lowest available fares for scheduled commercial air travel.

F. At the end of each month the contract travel agencies shall furnish a statement, in a form approved by the State Travel Division, showing certain details of all travel arrangements handled to each state agency or department for which the contract travel agencies have furnished their services and shall also furnish copies of said statements to the State Travel Division.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1993.

Passed the House of Representatives the 29th day of April, 1993.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 19th day of May, 1993.

President of the Senate