

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1622

By: Bryant (John), Rhodes
(Dusty), Beutler, Lucas,
Hager, Ferguson and Boyd
(Betty) of the House

and

Shurden, Muegge and
Gustafson of the Senate

An Act relating to Oklahoma historical societies;
creating the Battlefield Preservation and
Development Study Commission; providing for
membership, appointments, reimbursement, officers,
meetings, staffing and duties of the Commission;
providing for codification; and declaring an
emergency.

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 4.11 of Title 53, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Oklahoma has a rich and colorful history that contains
moments of uncommon valor, sacrifice, tragedy and triumph. Great
events took place within the borders of Oklahoma that shaped the
people and institutions of our nation. Specific battles, military
actions and engagements have taken place in Oklahoma in the past.
These historical sites may become or are becoming endangered or
threatened with the passage of time. These historical battlefields
provide economic benefits for the state when promoted as part of the
tourism industry of Oklahoma.

B. There is hereby created until December 31, 1993, the
Battlefield Preservation and Development Study Commission. The
membership of the Commission shall consist of twelve (12) members as
follows:

1. Three members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2. Three members of the Oklahoma Senate appointed by the
President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

3. Two members appointed by the Governor;

4. The Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, or
designee;

5. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and
Recreation, or designee;

6. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, or
designee; and

7. The Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, or
designee.

C. Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for serving on the Commission, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

2. Nonlegislative members of the Commission shall be reimbursed by their respective appointing authority for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

D. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be co-appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Meetings shall be at the call of the Chairperson. Staffing shall be provided by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

E. The purposes and responsibilities of the Commission shall be as follows:

1. To investigate possible battlefield sites throughout Oklahoma that are endangered or threatened;

2. To evaluate current efforts to preserve and protect battlefield sites from deterioration;

3. To study ways to promote tourism utilizing battlefield sites;

4. To promote local community involvement in the preservation of battlefield sites located in or near such communities;

5. To investigate state and federal resources and private resources available; and

6. To file a report on the study by December 31, 1993, with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

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 9th day of March, 1993.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 17th day of March, 1993.

President of the Senate