STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1366 By: Beutler

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 156, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1992 (47 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 156, which relates to purchase of certain vehicles; authorizing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to acquire certain vehicles; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 500.2, as last amended by Section 14, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 1993 (74 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 500.2), which relates to the State Travel Reimbursement Act; authorizing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to enter into certain contracts for conferences, meetings and training sessions; providing certain limitations; authorizing certain accounts; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 156, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1992 (47 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 156), is amended to read as follows:

Section 156. A. Unless otherwise provided for by law, no state board, commission, department, institution, official, or employee,

except the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Department of Corrections, the State Department of Education, the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Transportation Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Department of Mines shall purchase any passenger automobile or bus with public funds.

B. The Oklahoma School for the Deaf at Sulphur, the Oklahoma School for the Blind at Muskogee, and any state institution of higher education may purchase, own, or keep if now owned, or acquire by lease or gift, and use and maintain such station wagons, automobiles, trucks, or buses as are reasonably necessary for the implementation of the educational programs of said institutions. No bus operated, owned, or used by such educational institutions shall be permitted to carry any person other than students, faculty members, employees, or volunteers of such institutions. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit the operation of intracampus buses or buses routed directly between portions of the campus of any institution not adjacent to each other, nor to prohibit the collection of fares from such students, faculty members, or employees of such institutions, sufficient in amount to cover the reasonable cost of such transportation.

C. The J.D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Oklahoma Veterans Centers may own and maintain such passenger vehicles as those institutions have acquired prior to May 1, 1981.

D. The use of station wagons, automobiles, and buses, other than as provided for in this section, shall be permitted only upon written request for such use by heads of departments of the institution, approved in writing by the president of said institution or by some administrative official of said institution authorized by the president to grant said approval. Such use shall be permitted only for official institutional business or activities connected therewith. Such use shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 156.1 and 159.7 of this title forbidding personal use of such vehicles, and to the penalties therein declared.

E. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, as provided for in Section 156.1 of this title.

F. For the purpose of this section and Section 156.3 of this title, a station wagon is classified as a passenger automobile and may not be purchased solely for the use of transporting property. Such vehicles shall include, but not be limited to, all vehicles which have no separate luggage compartment or trunk but which do not have open beds, whether the same are called station wagons, vans, suburbans, town and country, blazers, or any other names. All state boards, commissions, departments, and institutions may own and maintain station wagons purchased solely for the purpose of transporting property if acquired prior to July 1, 1985.

G. The provisions of this section and Section 156.1 of this title shall not apply to public officials who are statewide elected commissioners.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 500.2, as last amended by Section 14, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 1993 (74 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 500.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.2 A. Officials and employees of the state, traveling on authorized state business, may be reimbursed for

expenses incurred in such travel in accordance with the provisions of this act and existing statutes relating to state travel. Persons who are not state employees, but who are performing substantial and necessary services to the state which have been directed or approved by the appropriate department official shall enjoy the protection of the sovereign immunity of the state to the same extent as a paid employee. Such persons may be reimbursed for expenses incurred during authorized official travel under these same statutory provisions, provided it is indicated on the claim the person is not a state employee, a description of services performed is entered, and the agency head by his approval of the claim certifies such services were substantial and necessary, and germane to the duties and functions of the reimbursing agency. Travel expenses incurred by a person during the course of seeking employment with a state agency, unless such travel is performed at the request of the employing agency, shall not be considered expenses incurred in performing substantial and necessary services to the state and shall not be reimbursed under the provisions of this act.

B. The chief administrative officer of the Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Oklahoma Military Department, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Central Services and the Department of Civil Emergency Management and the State Fire Marshal may arrange for and charge meals and lodging for a contingent of state personnel moved into an area for the purpose of preserving the public health, safety or welfare or for the protection of life or property. The cost for meals or lodging so charged shall not exceed the amount authorized in this act.

The chief administrative officer of each agency involved in an operation as provided for above shall require the vendor furnishing meals, lodging or both meals and lodging to submit an itemized statement for payment.

When a claim for lodging is made for a contingent of state personnel, individual members of the contingent may not submit a claim for lodging. When a claim for meals is made for a contingent of state personnel, individual members of the contingent may not submit a claim for meals.

C. The Department of Public Safety is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of classroom space, food and lodging expenses as may be necessary for law enforcement officers attending any official course of instruction sponsored or conducted by the Department of Public Safety. Such expenses may be paid for directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. Provided, the cost for food and lodging for each law enforcement officer shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

D. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food and lodging expenses as may be necessary for employees attending an official course of instruction or training conducted or sponsored by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Such expenses may be paid for directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. Provided, the cost for food and lodging for each employee shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food, lodging, meeting facility and beverage expenses as may be necessary for sponsoring seminars and receptions relating to economic development and science and technology issues. Such expenses may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall provide a quarterly report of such expenditures to the Governor, the Speaker

of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

F. The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food, lodging, meeting facility and beverage expenses necessary for sponsoring meetings and conferences relating to economic development and science and technology issues. Such contracts or agreements shall be awarded on a competitive basis and expenses may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. The President of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology shall provide a quarterly report of such expenditures to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

G. The State Fire Marshal is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of classroom space, food and lodging expenses as may be necessary for law enforcement officers attending any official course of instruction sponsored or conducted by the State Fire Marshal. Such expenses may be paid for directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. Provided, the cost for food and lodging for each law enforcement officer shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

H. The Department of Civil Emergency Management is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of classroom space, food and lodging expenses as may be necessary for official courses of instruction and conferences sponsored by the Department of Civil Emergency Management. Such expenses may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. Provided, the cost for food and lodging for each student or attendee shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided for in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

I. State agencies are authorized to make direct purchases of commercial airline tickets for use by employees in approved out-of-state travel. Each claim or invoice submitted to the Director of State Finance for the payment of such purchase shall bear the airline identifying ticket number, the name of the airline, total cost of each ticket purchased, class of accommodation, social security number and name of the employee for whom the ticket was purchased, and shall be filed on claim forms as prescribed by the Director of State Finance. An affidavit shall state that said employee did use any direct purchase commercial airline ticket received for his or her approved out-of-state travel.

J. State agencies are authorized to make direct purchases of lodging at facilities operated by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Such lodging shall be at the rate authorized by Section 500.9 of this title. Claims for payment shall be filed on claim forms as prescribed by the Office of State Finance.

K. State agencies are authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department for the payment of food, lodging and other authorized expenses as may be necessary for employees attending conferences, meetings or training sessions conducted or sponsored by the contracting agencies. Provided the cost for food and lodging for each employee shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of this title.

L. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food and lodging expenses as may be necessary for employees attending an official course of instruction or training conducted or sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Such expenses may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. The cost for food and lodging for each employee

shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

M. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food, lodging and other authorized expenses as may be necessary to host, conduct, sponsor or participate in conferences, meetings or training sessions, provided that the cost for food and lodging for each employee attending such conferences, meetings and training sessions shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act. The Board may establish accounts as necessary for the collection and distribution of funds, including but not limited to funds of sponsors and registration fees, related to such conferences, meetings and training sessions.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1995.

45-1-5495 KSM