

SHORT TITLE: District Attorneys Council; changing authority for  
distribution plan; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

SENATE BILL NO. 1058

By: Rozell

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the District Attorneys Council; amending 19 O.S. 1991, Section 215.28, which relates to the creation and duties of the Council; modifying statutory reference; modifying language; requiring certain conservation of prison beds; changing authority for distribution plan; providing exception; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 1991, Section 215.28, is amended to read as follows:

Section 215.28 A. There is hereby created a special division of the office of Attorney General to be known as the District Attorneys Council which shall be organized and administered as herein provided. Any reference in the Oklahoma Statutes to the "District Attorneys Training Coordination Council" shall mean the District Attorneys Council.

B. The chief executive officer of the office of the Council is the Executive Coordinator who shall be appointed and supervised by the Council. The Executive Coordinator shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. The Executive Coordinator shall be licensed to practice law in Oklahoma and shall have been a district attorney or assistant district attorney, or have held an equivalent position in state or federal government for at least three (3) years prior to ~~his~~ the appointment. The Executive Coordinator may appoint an Assistant Coordinator, both of whom shall be in the unclassified service of the state. The Executive Coordinator and the Assistant

Coordinator, who shall also be licensed to practice law in Oklahoma, shall devote full time to their duties and shall not engage in the private practice of law. The Executive Coordinator shall perform the functions and duties as may be assigned ~~to him~~ by the Council. The Executive Coordinator shall be named the project director and fiscal officer of any grant or fund received by the Council. The Executive Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator shall receive compensation for ~~their~~ services within the pay scale limits for district attorneys.

- C. 1. The Council shall be composed of the following members:
- a. the Attorney General, or ~~his~~ a designated representative~~†~~†
  - b. the President of the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association~~†~~†
  - c. the President-elect of the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association~~†~~†
  - d. one district attorney selected by the Court of Criminal Appeals for a three-year term~~†~~† and
  - e. one district attorney selected by the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Bar Association for a three-year term.

2. A member of the Council shall vacate his or her appointment upon termination of ~~his official~~ the position as Attorney General or district attorney. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A member appointed to fill a vacancy created other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member whom he or she is to succeed in the same manner as the original appointment. Any member may serve more than one term.

D. The Council shall designate from among its members a ~~Chairman~~ chair and ~~Vice-Chairman~~ vice-chair who shall serve for one-year terms and who may be reelected. Membership on the Council shall not constitute holding a public office. The Council shall not have the right to exercise any portion of the sovereign power of the state. A member of the Council shall not be disqualified from holding any public office or employment by reason of ~~his~~ appointment or membership on the Council, nor shall ~~he~~ a member forfeit the office or employment, by reason of ~~his~~ appointment hereunder.

E. The Council shall meet at least four times in each year and shall hold special meetings when called by the ~~Chairman~~ chair, or, in the absence of the ~~Chairman~~ chair, by the ~~Vice-Chairman~~ vice-chair or when called by the ~~Chairman~~ chair upon the written request of two members of the Council. The Council shall establish its own procedures and requirements with respect to quorum, place and conduct of its meetings and other matters.

F. The members of the Council shall not receive a salary for duties performed as members ~~of the Council~~ but shall be entitled to be reimbursed for ~~their~~ travel expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

G. The Council shall make an annual report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association regarding its efforts to implement the purposes of this ~~act~~ section.

H. The Council shall have the power to perform such functions as ~~in its opinion~~ shall strengthen the criminal justice system in Oklahoma while conserving the state's prison beds for violent offenders, to provide a professional organization for the education,

training and coordination of technical efforts of all state prosecutors and to maintain and improve prosecutor efficiency and effectiveness in enforcing the laws of this state including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Organize, supervise and perform functions consistent with this ~~act~~ section;

2. Convene regional or statewide conferences and training seminars for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this ~~act~~ section;

3. Accept and expend monies, gifts, grants or services from any public or private source; contract or enter into agreements with educational institutions or state or federal agencies; and employ personnel as the Council in its judgment finds necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this ~~act~~ section. Such employees shall be in the unclassified service of the state;

4. Serve in an advisory capacity to the district attorneys of the state;

5. Provide and coordinate training and continuing legal education for district attorneys and their assistants, including participation in nationally recognized prosecutorial seminars conducted in other states;

6. Gather and disseminate information to district attorneys relative to their official duties, including changes in the law relative to their office;

7. Coordinate with law enforcement officers, the courts and corrections workers providing interdisciplinary seminars to augment the effectiveness of the criminal justice system;

8. Require statistical reports from district attorneys' offices relating to functions and workload performance;

9. Recommend additional legislation necessary to upgrade the Oklahoma District Attorneys System to professional status;

10. Establish ~~an equitable~~ a distribution plan for allocation of any funds or gifts received from public or private sources for state prosecution ~~and distribute such funds in accordance with such plan,~~ except for state-appropriated funds; and

11. Appoint a larger Advisory Council made up of district attorneys and assistant district attorneys to discuss problems and hear recommendations concerning necessary research, minimum standards, educational needs, and other matters imperative to upgrading Oklahoma prosecution to professional status.

I. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Council, to be designated the "District Attorneys Council Revolving Fund". The fund shall consist of all monies received by the Council other than appropriated funds. The revolving fund shall be a continuing fund not subject to fiscal year limitations and shall be under the control and management of the Council. Expenditures from this fund shall be made pursuant to the purposes of this ~~act~~ section and without legislative appropriation. Warrants for expenditures shall be drawn by the State Treasurer based on claims signed by the authorized employee or employees of the Council and approved for payment by the Director of State Finance.

J. The Council may accept operation and supervision of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grants presently being administered by the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association.

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.

45-2-2340

NP