

SHORT TITLE: State government; authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to employ an attorney; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

SENATE BILL NO. 732

By: Littlefield

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 18c, as last amended by Section 194, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995 (74 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 18c), which relates to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; authorizing the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to employ an attorney; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 18c, as last amended by Section 194, Chapter 352, O.S.L. 1995 (74 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 18c), is amended to read as follows:

Section 18c. A. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, no state officer, board or commission shall have authority to employ or appoint attorneys to advise or represent said officer, board or commission in any matter.

2. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the Corporation Commission, the Board of Managers of the State Insurance Fund, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the Commissioners of the Land Office, the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission also known as the Commission for Human Services, the Board of Corrections, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, the Transportation

Commission, the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board, the Department of Central Services, the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission, the Office of Personnel Management, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 of this subsection shall not be construed to authorize the Office of Juvenile Affairs to employ any attorneys that are not specifically authorized by law.

4. All the legal duties of such officer, board or commission shall devolve upon and are hereby vested in the Attorney General; provided that:

- a. the Governor shall have authority to employ special counsel to protect the rights or interest of the state as provided in Section 6 of this title, and
- b. liquidation agents of banks shall have the authority to employ local counsel, with the consent of the Bank Commissioner and the Attorney General and the approval of the district court.

B. At the request of any state officer, board or commission, except the Corporation Commission, the Board of Managers of the State Insurance Fund, Oklahoma Tax Commission and the Commissioners of the Land Office, the Grand River Dam Authority, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, the Attorney General shall defend any action in which they may be sued in their official capacity. At the request of any such state officer, board or commission, the Attorney General shall have authority to institute suits in the name of the State of Oklahoma on their relation, if after investigation the Attorney General is convinced there is sufficient legal merit to justify the action.

C. Any officer, board, or commission which has the authority to employ or appoint attorneys may request that the Attorney General defend any action arising pursuant to the provisions of the Governmental Tort Claims Act.

D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to repeal or affect the provisions of the statutes of this state pertaining to attorneys and legal advisors of the several commissions and departments of state specified in subsection B of this section, and all acts and parts of acts pertaining thereto shall be and remain in full force and effect.

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.

45-2-1815

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