

SHORT TITLE: Statutes and reports; creating Statute Revision Oversight Act; creating Joint Committee on Statute Revision Oversight; codification; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

SENATE BILL NO. 892

By: Smith

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to statutes and reports; providing short title; creating Statute Revision Oversight Act; stating purpose; creating Joint Committee on Statute Revision Oversight; providing for membership, chair, vice-chair and terms; providing for initial appointments; requiring interim activities and defining quorums; requiring compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; providing for travel reimbursement; authorizing staff services; authorizing Committee to conduct certain activities; specifying requirements of statute revision bill; providing for introduction of statute revision bill; prohibiting certain amendments; 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 400 of Title 75, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Statute Revision Oversight Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 401 of Title 75, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The purpose of the Statute Revision Oversight Act is to ensure the regular legislative review and orderly correction and revision of the various Oklahoma statutes.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 402 of Title 75, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma State Legislature the Joint Committee on Statute Revision Oversight, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee". The Committee shall consist of eight (8) members, to be appointed in the following manner: Four members of the Senate shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and four members of the House of Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Each member of the Committee shall serve until a successor is appointed.

B. The chair and vice-chair of the Committee shall be appointed from the membership of the Committee by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively. Beginning July 1, 1996, the chair shall be a member of the Senate and shall serve until July 1, 1998, at which time the chair shall be assumed by the House of Representatives. Thereafter, the chair shall alternate every two (2) years between the Senate and the House of Representatives, beginning the first day of July of every even-numbered year.

C. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the initial membership of the Committee no later than July 1, 1996.

D. The Committee shall meet during legislative interims to carry out the responsibilities set forth in Sections 4 and 5 of this act.

E. Five (5) members of the membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the Committee.

F. All business conducted by the Committee shall be conducted in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

G. All members of the Committee shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses by the respective bodies of the Legislature in the same manner as provided for by law for attending interim committee meetings.

H. The Senate and the House of Representatives shall provide necessary staff services to the Committee.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 403 of Title 75, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Committee may:

1. Review the methods, procedures, and documentation used by the Senate and the House of Representatives for drafting legislation;

2. Adopt a uniform system for drafting legislation;

3. Approve a uniform bill drafting manual to be used by the Senate and the House of Representatives;

4. Propose changes to the Joint Rules necessary to ensure a uniform legislative drafting process; and

5. Provide for periodic review and update of legislative drafting process.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 404 of Title 75, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Subject to the direction and oversight of the Committee, legislative staff of the chair of the Committee shall prepare one statute revision bill each regular session for the purpose of:

1. Eliminating obsolete and redundant wording of laws;

2. Correcting obvious errors and inconsistencies;

3. Correcting inaccurate references to the titles of officers, departments, or other agencies of the state and to other statutes, and making other name changes as are necessary to be consistent with the law currently in effect;

4. Eliminating duplications in law and any laws repealed directly or by implication as a result of legislative action or judicial action; and

5. Clarifying existing laws, modernizing terminology, and making such other nonsubstantive changes as the Committee considers proper.

B. A statute revision bill shall not include changes in the substance of any statute but may contain such changes in the arrangement and terminology as will, in the judgment of the Committee, improve the style, clarity and certainty of the statutes, while preserving the intent, effect, and meaning of each statutory provision.

C. A statute revision bill shall be introduced no later than the fifth legislative day of each regular session.

D. Following introduction of a statute revision bill, the bill shall not be subject to amendments which change the substance of any statute. A statute revision bill may be amended to change or correct arrangement, or terminology, or to improve the style, clarity, and certainty of the statutes. A statute revision bill shall not be amended to include any matters not germane to the purpose and intent of such bills.

SECTION 6. 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.

45-2-1519

KSM