

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1350

By: Bryant of the House

and

Shurden and Muegge of
the Senate

An Act relating to Oklahoma historical societies; amending Section 1, Chapter 12, O.S.L. 1993, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 56, O.S.L. 1994 (53 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 4.11), which relates to the Battlefield Preservation Commission; modifying termination date of the Commission; changing the name of the Commission; providing for continued appointment of members; changing date for report; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 12, O.S.L. 1993, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 56, O.S.L. 1994 (53 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 4.11), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4.11 A. Oklahoma has a rich and colorful history that contains moments of uncommon valor, sacrifice, tragedy and triumph. Great events, in the form of battles, military actions and engagements, 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~~ and, if preserved, can provide economic benefits for the state when promoted as part of the tourism industry of Oklahoma.

B. There is hereby re-created until December 31, ~~1997~~ 1999, the Oklahoma Battlefield Preservation Commission. The membership of the Commission shall consist of eighteen (18) members as follows:

1. Six members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
2. Six 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 a designee;
5. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, or a designee;
6. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, or a designee; and
7. The Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, or a 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 for the preservation and promotion of battlefield sites; and

6. To file a report with recommendations on the preservation of battlefields in Oklahoma by December 31, ~~1997~~ 1999, with the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

F. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and any member serving on the Oklahoma Battlefield Preservation ~~and Development Study~~ Commission on December 30, ~~1993~~ 1996, shall continue to serve as a member and in the same capacity on the Oklahoma Battlefield Preservation Commission until the member resigns or is ineligible or is unable to serve on the Commission or is replaced by the appointing authority making the original appointment. Appointments to any vacancies which may exist on the effective date of this act or new positions created pursuant to this act shall be made by July 1, ~~1994~~ 1997.

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 3rd day of March, 1997.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 25th day of March, 1997.

President

of the Senate