

SHORT TITLE: State employees; reimbursement of expenses; direct payments. Effective date. Emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE BILL NO. 1246

By: Weedn

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state employees; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 500.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 354, O.S.L. 1997 (74 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 500.2), which relates to reimbursement of expenses; clarifying language; allowing direct payment of conference registration expenses; deleting overnight requirement; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 500.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 354, O.S.L. 1997 (74 O.S. Supp. 1997, 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~~ the State Travel Reimbursement 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 or her 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~~ the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

B. The chief administrative officer of the Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Oklahoma Military Department, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Central Services, the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, the State Department of Agriculture, 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 State Travel Reimbursement Act. The chief administrative officer of each agency involved in such an operation 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 Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology are 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 and the President of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology shall each 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.

D. For purposes of this section:

1. "State agency" means any constitutionally or statutorily created state board, commission, or department, including the Legislature and the Courts; and

2. State agencies are authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food, ~~and~~ lodging, and conference registration expenses as may be necessary for employees or other persons who are performing substantial and necessary services to the state attending official conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops, or training sessions or in the performance of their duties. Such expenses may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business establishment, ~~provided the meeting qualifies for overnight travel for the employees~~ and 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.

E. 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.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 3. 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.

46-2-2336

SJ