

SHORT TITLE: Oklahoma Historical Society; authorizing certain museum and historical sites to charge entry fees; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

SENATE BILL NO. 66

By: Muegge

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Historical Society;

amending Section 3, Chapter 71, O.S.L. 1995 (53 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 1.21), which relates to entry fees; authorizing the Oklahoma Historical Society to charge entry fees at certain museums and historical sites; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 71, O.S.L. 1995 (53 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 1.21), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1.21 A. The Oklahoma Historical Society is authorized ~~and directed to develop and implement an entry fee pilot project. The pilot project shall be implemented at the following museum and historical site~~ to charge an entry fee at the following museums and historical sites:

1. The Route 66 Museum located in Clinton, Oklahoma; ~~and~~

2. The Fort Gibson Military Park located in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma;

3. The Pioneer Woman Museum located in Ponca City, Oklahoma;

and

4. The Henry Overholser House located in Oklahoma City,

Oklahoma.

B. The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society shall establish an entry fee schedule to charge the public for

admission to the participating sites. ~~The Board shall adopt a fee schedule no later than July 1, 1995, with collection of the fee beginning after that date.~~ The entry fee schedule shall include special rates for families, school groups and any other group or category of persons the Board designates.

C. The Historical Society shall separately account for and report the revenue which is generated from the collection of the entry fee for the participating sites. After the collected fees are deposited in the Historical Society Revolving Fund, the Historical Society shall separately track the fee revenue generated from each ~~pilot project~~ site to ensure that all revenue accruing to the credit of each site is budgeted and expended for that site. The revenue shall be used at each site to enhance, improve, market and pay for expenses associated with the site, including, but not limited to, site personnel, utilities, conservation supplies, site promotion and marketing, equipment, professional services and capital improvements.

D. ~~As part of the project, the~~ The Historical Society shall evaluate ~~the~~ overall effectiveness of ~~the project~~ charging an entry fee at the participating sites, including the impact on educational outreach, public opinion and operational efficiency. The Historical Society shall prepare a report of the findings, including recommendations ~~concerning the project~~ which shall be submitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate by March 31 of each year ~~the project operates~~.

E. ~~During the period the entry fee pilot project is operating,~~ The amount of money appropriated to the Oklahoma Historical Society shall not be reduced to offset the amount of revenue generated and collected through the charging of entry fee pilot project entry fees.

~~F. The entry fee pilot project established pursuant to this section shall terminate on June 30, 1997, unless otherwise provided for by law.~~

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.

46-1-0877

RH