SHORT TITLE: State government; State Travel Reimbursement Act; reimbursement changes; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

SENATE BILL NO. 697 By: Gustafson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Section 500.9, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 335, O.S.L. 1995 (74 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 500.9), which relates to the State Travel Reimbursement Act; making certain exception to prohibition on certain reimbursement; adding place name to certain list; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 500.9, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 335, O.S.L. 1995 (74 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 500.9), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.9 A. Reimbursement for overnight lodging, while in official travel status, may be made at not to exceed Forty Dollars ($40.00) or the actual cost, if lower, per night except as provided in subsections C, D and F of this section and Section 500.9A of this title. Receipts issued by the hotel, motel or other public lodging place shall accompany claims for reimbursement.

B. A per diem allowance in lieu of subsistence may be authorized by a travel claim issued in accordance with Section 500.3 of this title, which shall include all charges for meals and lodging. Not to exceed Thirty-five Dollars ($35.00) per diem may be authorized on the travel claim for the performance of travel within the State of Oklahoma and not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars ($36.00)

per diem may be authorized for the performance of travel outside the State of Oklahoma. In computing the per diem allowance, a day shall be a period of twenty-four (24) hours. Reimbursement for each one-fourth (1/4) day consisting of six (6) hours or major fraction thereof, more than three (3) hours, may be made at the rate of Eight Dollars and twenty-five cents ($8.25) in state and Nine Dollars ($9.00) out of state. Provided, however, that no per diem shall be allowed pursuant to this section for periods of less than overnight in travel status. Reimbursement for expenses other than meals and lodging may also be made in accordance with the provisions of this act.

C. State officers or employees attending meetings, workshops, conferences or other objectives of trips which are conducted at a designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place or where lodging has been arranged for by the blocking of rooms or by rate reductions for the participants by the sponsor as evidenced by the announcement or notice of the meeting, workshop, conference or other objective shall be reimbursed the actual lodging expense not to exceed the single occupancy room rate charged by the designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place, provided that the officials or employees are in official travel status approved by the agency head or designee. Provided further, those state officers or employees attending meetings, workshops, conferences or other objectives of trips, which are conducted at a designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place as provided by this subsection, who choose to acquire less expensive lodging at another hotel, motel or other public lodging place shall be reimbursed the actual lodging expense not to exceed the single occupancy room rate charged by the designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place. Provided further, those state officers or employees so choosing this option shall not be reimbursed for local transportation costs incurred traveling between such optional lodging and the designated hotel,

motel or other public lodging place unless the sum of the local transportation costs plus the lodging cost does not exceed the single occupancy room rate charged by the designated hotel, motel, or other public lodging place. Receipts issued by the hotel, motel or other public lodging place shall accompany claims for reimbursement.

D. The Legislature recognizes the existence of areas where the reimbursement is not sufficient to pay lodging costs, and wherein a higher lodging reimbursement should be allowed. It is hereby provided that any state officials or employees in official travel status out of the state in one of the designated high rate geographical areas shall be reimbursed their actual lodging expense up to a maximum of Sixty-five ($65.00) Dollars per night, except as provided in Section 500.9A of this title. The high rate geographical areas are hereby designated as follows:

Anchorage, AK

Atlanta, GA

Baltimore, MD

Boston, MA including all locations within Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk Counties

Chicago, IL including all locations within Lake and Cook Counties

Dallas and Fort Worth, TX including all locations within Dallas and Tarrant Counties

Denver, CO including all locations within Denver, Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties

Detroit, MI

Honolulu, HI

Houston, TX including all locations within the corporate limits of Houston

Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS

Los Angeles, CA including all locations within Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties

Miami, FL including all locations within Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe Counties

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN including all locations within Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

New Orleans, LA including all locations within Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes

New York, NY including all locations within the boroughs of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island and the counties of Nassau and Suffolk

Newark, NJ including all locations within Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union Counties

Norwalk, CT

Philadelphia, PA including all locations within Philadelphia and Bala Cynwyd, PA

Pittsburgh, PA

St. Louis, MO

San Diego, CA including all locations within San Diego County

San Francisco and Oakland, CA including all locations within San Francisco and Alameda Counties

San Jose, CA including all locations within Santa Clara County

Seattle, WA including all locations within King County

Washington, DC including all locations within the corporate limits of Washington, DC, the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax, and the counties of Arlington, Loudoun and Fairfax in Virginia, and the counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges in Maryland.

E. State officers and employees who have been required to attend hearings or meetings of any congressional committee or subcommittee or any federal agency, board or commission shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel and lodging

expenses; however, the agency head must approve any claims in connection with such expenses.

F. Reimbursement for meals and lodging on out-of-state trips shall not begin more than twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting, workshop, conference or other objective of trip begins and shall not continue more than twenty-four (24) hours after said meeting, workshop, conference or other objective of trip ends.

G. Reimbursement for meals and lodging incurred in official travel in areas outside of the United States to implement the objectives of contracts, grants, agreements or gifts for which funds from these sources are furnished shall be reimbursed from said funds at actual cost not to exceed the amount authorized United States Government employees in its periodical publication entitled "Standard Regulations (Government Civilians, Foreign Areas), Department of State, Washington, DC". Provided, however, travel to points outside of the United States, whether performed under authority of contract, grant, agreement or otherwise, shall not begin more than forty-eight (48) hours before or end more than forty-eight (48) hours after the objective of the trip.

H. Claims submitted to the Director of State Finance for payment under the provisions of this section shall be certified to by the principal fiscal officer or contract and grant administrator of each agency. Such officer shall certify that such claim complies with and is authorized under this section.

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.

46-1-0752 WHT