

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 8, 1999

House Bill No. 1154

As Amended

HOUSE BILL NO. 1154 -- By COVEY.

An Act relating to roads, bridges and ferries; amending 69 O.S. 1991, Section 662, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 1998 (69 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 662), which relates to administration of program or funds and force account bridges; deleting provisions relating to the awarding of certain projects; increasing maximum amounts for bridge or road projects which may be done by the force account method; deleting requirement that certain counties enter into certain agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation; deleting requirement that certain funds be withheld under certain circumstances; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 1991, Section 662, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 1998 (69 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 662), is amended to read as follows:

Section 662. A. The program and funds shall be administered by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation under a minimum of policies, guidelines and engineering design standards. Approved projects will be awarded to contractors by the State Transportation Commission or by other federal or state agencies under their normal competitive bidding procedures, excluding prequalification of bidders. ~~However, force account projects may be awarded to a county by the State Transportation Commission based upon agreed unit prices, if deemed by the State Transportation Commission to be in the best public interest.~~ No county bridge project in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) or any county road project in excess of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), excluding the cost for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocation, in cost may be done by the force account method.

B. Funds available for ~~this act~~ the County Bridge and Road Improvement Act shall not be subject to fiscal year limitations and shall be available for encumbrance and expenditure purposes for a period of thirty (30) months from the effective date such funds are appropriated.

~~C. Counties undertaking projects under provisions of this act shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Transportation that the county shall provide adequate maintenance on any bridge or road reconstructed or replaced under the program. Funds made available under this act shall be withheld from any county which does not provide adequate maintenance.~~

D. 1. Counties may request reimbursement from the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund for the expense of the construction of force account bridges. Counties shall be reimbursed from their account after providing the Department of Transportation with a resolution documenting the criteria set forth in paragraph 2 of this subsection.

2. County force account bridges eligible for reimbursement from the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund shall meet or exceed the following criteria:

- a. a registered professional engineer shall provide plans in the form of field notes, which have been stamped and signed, which provide the basic structural requirements to achieve a load rating of H.S. twenty (20) tons or greater. Field notes may be handwritten specifications or sketches,
- b. the finished bridge shall achieve a twenty-ton or greater rating. The rating criteria shall be determined by the National Bridge Inventory and approved by the Department of Transportation for bridges twenty (20) feet or more in length,
- c. the subsurface foundation of the bridge shall meet the minimum guidelines established by using approved engineering methods,
- d. the finished bridge shall have a minimum roadway width of twenty-four (24) feet, and
- e. materials used in the construction of the bridge shall meet or exceed the specifications for materials as specified in the current edition of the County Bridge Standards or certified in writing by the engineer or supplier.

3. Monies from the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund may be used to establish minimum standards for guardrail applications on low-traffic-volume county roads. The board of

directors of the association representing the county commissioners of Oklahoma may request the development of guardrail standards for bridges on low-traffic-volume county roads, as defined in the county road standard manual, the cost of which shall be paid from monies from the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund.

~~E.~~ D. Prior to construction of the bridge, a county may request that construction supervision be provided by the Circuit Engineering District of which the county is a member to ensure quality control and quality assurance.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, dated 2-4-99 -- DO PASS, As Amended.