ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2758

By: Tyler of the House

and

Stipe of the Senate

An Act relating to counties and county officers; amending 19 O.S. 2001, Section 339, which relates to general powers of the board of county commissioners; modifying requirements for cooperative agreements; amending 69 O.S. 2001, Section 316, which relates to certification of county road mileage; modifying method of computing county road mileage; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2001, Section 339, is amended to read as follows:

Section 339. A. The county commissioners shall have power:

1. To make all orders respecting the real property of the county, to sell the public grounds of the county and to purchase other grounds in lieu thereof; and for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section it shall be sufficient to convey all the interests of the county in such grounds when an order made for the sale and a deed is executed in the name of the county by the chair of the board of county commissioners, reciting the order, and signed by the chair and acknowledged by the county clerk for and on behalf of the county;

2. To audit the accounts of all officers having the care, management, collection or disbursement of any money belonging to the county or appropriated for its benefit;

3. To construct and repair bridges and to open, lay out and vacate highways: Provided, however, that when any state institution, school or department shall own, lease or otherwise control land on both sides of any established highway, the governing board or body of

the same shall have the power to vacate, alter or relocate the highway adjoining the property in the following manner:

If it should appear that it would be to the best use and interest of such institution, school or department to vacate, alter or relocate such highway, the governing board or body shall notify the board of county commissioners, in writing, of their intention to hold a public hearing and determine whether to vacate, alter or relocate such highway, setting forth the location and terminals of the road, and all data concerning the proposed right-of-way if changed or relocated, and shall give fifteen (15) days' notice of such hearing by publication in some newspaper in the county or counties in which the road is located, and such hearing shall be held at the county seat of the county in which the road is located, and if a county line road, may be heard in either county. At such hearing testimony may be taken, and any protests or suggestions shall be received as to the proposed measure, and at the conclusion thereof if the governing board or body shall find that it would be to the best use and interest of such institution, school or department, and the public generally, they may make an appropriate order either vacating, altering or relocating the highway, which order shall be final if approved by the board of county commissioners. Such institution, school or department may by agreement share the cost of changing any such road. No property owner shall be denied access to a public highway by such order;

4. To recommend or sponsor an employee or prospective employee for job-related training and certification in an area that may require training or certification to comply with state or federal law as such training or certification is provided by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, or any other state agency, technology center school, or university;

5. Until January 1, 1983, to furnish necessary blank books, plats, blanks and stationery for the clerk of the district court,

county clerk, register of deeds, county treasurer and county judge, sheriff, county surveyor and county attorney, justices of the peace, and constables, to be paid for out of the county treasury; also a fireproof vault sufficient in which to keep all the books, records, vouchers and papers pertaining to the business of the county;

6. To set off, organize and change the boundaries of townships and to designate and give names therefor: Provided, that the boundaries of no township shall be changed within six (6) months next preceding a general election;

7. To lease tools, apparatus, machinery or equipment of the county to another political subdivision or a state agency. The Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State University Center for Local Government Technology and the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector, together, shall establish a system of uniform rates for the leasing of such tools, apparatus, machinery and equipment;

8. To jointly, with other counties, buy heavy equipment and to loan or lease such equipment across county lines;

9. To develop minimum personnel policies for the county with the approval of a majority of all county elected officers;

10. To purchase, rent, or lease-purchase uniforms, safety devices and equipment for the officers and employees of the county and, provide incentive awards for safety related job performance. However, no employee shall be recognized more than once per calendar year and the award shall not exceed the value of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00). The county commissioners may pay for any safety training or safety devices and safety equipment out of the general county funds or any county highway funds available to the county commissioners;

11. To provide for payment of notary commissions, filing fees, and the cost of notary seals and bonds;

12. To do and perform such other duties and acts that the board of county commissioners may be required by law to do and perform;

13. To make purchases at a public auction pursuant to the county purchasing procedures in subsection D of Section 1505 of this title;

14. To deposit interest income from highway funds in the general fund of the county;

15. To submit sealed bids for the purchase of equipment from this state, or any agency or political subdivision of this state;

16. To utilize county owned equipment, labor and supplies at their disposal on property owned by the county, public schools, state and municipalities with a population less than five thousand (5,000). ~~A cooperative agreement shall be executed and approved by the district attorney prior to work being performed, except when a state of emergency has been declared. The cooperative agreement shall contain a work schedule and assign cost responsibilities for the work being performed~~ Cooperative agreements may be general in terms of routine maintenance or specific in terms of construction and agreed to and renewed on an annual basis. Work performed pursuant to Section 36-113 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall comply with the provisions of this section;

17. To enter into intergovernmental cooperative agreements with the federally recognized Indian tribes within this state to address issues of construction and maintenance of streets, roads, bridges and highways exclusive of the provisions of Section 1221 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

18. To execute hold harmless agreements with the lessor in the manner provided by subsection B of Section 636.5 of Title 69 of the Oklahoma Statutes when leasing or lease-purchasing equipment;

19. To accept donations of right-of-way or right-of-way easements pursuant to Section 381 et seq. of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

20. To establish by resolution the use of per diem for specific purposes in accordance with the limitations provided by Sections 500.8 and 500.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

21. To apply to the Department of Environmental Quality for a waste tire permit to bale waste tires for use in approved engineering projects.

B. The county commissioners of a county or, in counties where there is a county budget board, the county budget board may designate money from general county funds for the designated purpose of drug enforcement and drug abuse prevention programs within the county.

C. When any lease or lease purchase is made on behalf of the county by the board pursuant to the provisions of this section, the county shall be allowed to have trade in values for transactions involving the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act, Section 85.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. In order to timely comply with the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act with regard to county vehicles, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution, create a petty cash account. The board of county commissioners may request a purchase order for petty cash in an amount necessary to pay the expense of license and registration fees for county motor vehicles. Any balance in the petty cash account after the license and registration fees have been paid shall be returned to the account or fund from which the funds originated. The county purchasing agent shall be the custodian of the petty cash account, and the petty cash account shall be subject to audit.

E. When the board of county commissioners approve an express trust, pursuant to Sections 176 through 180.3 of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for the purpose of operating a county jail, the trustees of the public trust may appoint commissioned peace officers, certified by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training,

to provide security for inmates that are required to be transported outside of the detention facility, and investigate violations of law within the detention facility. Other personnel necessary to operate the jail may be employed and trained or certified as may be required by applicable state or federal law.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2001, Section 316, is amended to read as follows:

Section 316. The Commission, on or before the first day of June of each year, shall certify to the Oklahoma Tax Commission the county road mileage of each county and the total county road mileage of the state as such mileage existed on the first day of January of such year. Such mileage shall be the computation of the existing road mileage for counties including any mileage represented by streets or roads ~~that the boards of county commissioners are required to construct, improve, repair or maintain pursuant to the provisions of Section 36-113 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ <u>in municipalities with a population of less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) and any other streets and roads in municipalities with a population of less than five thousand (5,000) that the county has agreed to construct, maintain, or repair</u>. Any roads removed from the State Highway System by the Transportation Commission and returned to the county road system shall be added to the total county road mileage of the said county.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2002.

SECTION 4. 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 20th day of March, 2002.

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2002.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate