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**THE STATE SENATE**  
**Tuesday, February 27, 2001**

**Senate Bill No. 80**

SENATE BILL NO. 80 - By: CRUTCHFIELD of the Senate and HILLIARD of the House.

An Act relating to the Oklahoma School for the Blind, the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, and motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 156, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 240, O.S.L. 2000 (47 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 156), which relates to purchase of automobiles or buses with public funds; authorizing Oklahoma School for the Blind and Oklahoma School for the Deaf to use vehicles to transport public school students; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 156, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 240, O.S.L. 2000 (47 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 156), is amended to read as follows:

Section 156. A. Unless otherwise provided for by law, no state board, commission, department, institution, official, or employee, except the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Department of Corrections, the State Department of Education, the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Transportation Commission, the Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health and

**(Bold face denotes Committee Amendments)**

1 Substance Abuse Services, the J.D. McCarty Center for Children with  
2 Developmental Disabilities, the Military Department of the State of  
3 Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the  
4 Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Oklahoma Water Resources  
5 Board, the Department of Mines, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, and  
6 the Oklahoma Supreme Court shall purchase any passenger automobile  
7 or bus with public funds.

8 B. 1. The Oklahoma School for the Deaf at Sulphur, the  
9 Oklahoma School for the Blind at Muskogee, and any state institution  
10 of higher education may purchase, own, or keep if now owned, or  
11 acquire by lease or gift, and use and maintain such station wagons,  
12 automobiles, trucks, or buses as are reasonably necessary for the  
13 implementation of the educational programs of said institutions.

14 2. No bus operated, owned, or used by such educational  
15 institutions shall be permitted to carry any person other than  
16 students, faculty members, employees, or volunteers of such  
17 institutions. The provisions of this section shall not be construed  
18 to prohibit:

19 a. the operation of intracampus buses or buses routed  
20 directly between portions of the campus of any  
21 institution not adjacent to each other, nor to  
22 prohibit the collection of fares from such students,  
23 faculty members, or employees of such institutions,

1 sufficient in amount to cover the reasonable cost of  
2 such transportation, or  
3 b. the Oklahoma School for the Blind or the Oklahoma  
4 School for the Deaf from entering into agreements with  
5 public school districts pursuant to the Interlocal  
6 Cooperation Act for the mutual use of the schools' and  
7 the districts' vehicles. Such use may include, but is  
8 not limited to, the transportation of students from  
9 school districts with students from the Oklahoma  
10 School for the Blind or the Oklahoma School for the  
11 Deaf in vehicles owned by the Oklahoma School for the  
12 Blind or the Oklahoma School for the Deaf when  
13 traveling to school-related activities.

14 C. The J.D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental  
15 Disabilities, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma  
16 Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Oklahoma Veterans Centers  
17 may own and maintain such passenger vehicles as those institutions  
18 have acquired prior to May 1, 1981.

19 D. The use of station wagons, automobiles, and buses, other  
20 than as provided for in this section, shall be permitted only upon  
21 written request for such use by heads of departments of the  
22 institution, approved in writing by the president of said  
23 institution or by some administrative official of said institution

1 authorized by the president to grant said approval. Such use shall  
2 be permitted only for official institutional business or activities  
3 connected therewith. Such use shall be subject to the provisions of  
4 Sections 156.1 and 159.7 of this title forbidding personal use of  
5 such vehicles, and to the penalties therein declared.

6 E. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this  
7 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by  
8 fine or imprisonment, or both, as provided for in Section 156.1 of  
9 this title.

10 F. For the purpose of this section and Section 156.3 of this  
11 title, a station wagon is classified as a passenger automobile and  
12 may not be purchased solely for the use of transporting property.  
13 Such vehicles shall include, but not be limited to, all vehicles  
14 which have no separate luggage compartment or trunk but which do not  
15 have open beds, whether the same are called station wagons, vans,  
16 suburbans, town and country, blazers, or any other names. All state  
17 boards, commissions, departments, and institutions may own and  
18 maintain station wagons purchased solely for the purpose of  
19 transporting property if acquired prior to July 1, 1985.

20 G. The provisions of this section and Section 156.1 of this  
21 title shall not apply to public officials who are statewide elected  
22 commissioners.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

1           SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
2 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-21-01 - DO  
6 PASS, As Coauthored.