

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED  
SENATE BILL 531

By: Littlefield of the Senate

and

Roberts of the House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to counties and county officers; amending 11 O.S. 2001, Section 36-113, which relates to municipalities; authorizing the board of county commissioners to make certain improvements to certain municipalities; amending 19 O.S. 2001, Section 339, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 142, O.S.L. 2002 (19 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 339), which relates to the general powers of the county commissioners; modifying powers of the board of county commissioners; increasing population limit of municipalities in which county-owned equipment may be utilized; authorizing the board of county commissioners to adopt certain codes; providing exceptions to applicability of these codes; authorizing the hiring of county building inspectors; specifying qualifications and duties of county building inspectors; authorizing certain duties for the board of county commissioners as it relates to these codes; stating criteria relating to fees; amending 51 O.S. 2001, Section 6, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 389, O.S.L. 2002 (51 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 6), which relates to exemptions; modifying certain exemption; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2001, Section 36-113, is amended to read as follows:

Section 36-113. A. The Department of Transportation may, or the board of county commissioners of any county or federally recognized tribal government shall, by agreement with the governing body of a municipality having a population less than five thousand

(5,000), construct, improve, repair or maintain any of the streets of the municipality.

B. The Subject to the provisions of Section 339 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the board of county commissioners may construct, improve, repair, or maintain any of the streets of a municipality having a population of less than five thousand (5,000) ~~subject to the provisions of Section 339 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes.~~

C. Subject to the provisions of Section 339 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the board of county commissioners may construct, improve, repair or maintain any of the streets of a municipality having a population of less than fifteen thousand (15,000) if the county has passed a sales tax with the proceeds earmarked to construct, improve, repair or maintain any of the streets or roadways of such county.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2001, Section 339, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 142, O.S.L. 2002 (19 O.S. Supp. 2002, 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) or with a population less than fifteen thousand (15,000) if the municipality has passed a sales tax with the proceeds earmarked for construction, maintenance, improvement or repair of any of the streets or roadways of such county. 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 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 868.17A of Title 19, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The board of county commissioners may, by resolution, adopt building codes, fire codes, or both building and fire codes which shall be designed for the purpose of promoting, benefiting, and protecting the public health, safety and welfare of the people of this state. The codes adopted pursuant to this section shall be applicable only in the unincorporated areas of the county. All building materials, equipment, and methods of installation or construction shall be at least the equivalent of that prescribed in any building or fire code adopted by the board of county commissioners in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety. Any codes adopted pursuant to this section shall not apply to the installation and maintenance of electric supply and communication lines of public utilities and public service companies which are regulated by the Corporation Commission. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any area located within any county not subject to the provisions of Section 868.1 through 868.22 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Building inspectors may be employed by a county to enforce building or fire codes. The building inspectors shall be licensed by the State of Oklahoma. The building inspectors shall enforce the provisions of any building or fire code adopted pursuant to this section and shall

be authorized to inspect all buildings for the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this section or by any building or fire code adopted by the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners may adopt rules to carry out the inspections to enforce the building or fire codes, may prescribe the necessary permits, notices, and inspection procedures and may set and determine fees. The fees shall be reasonable and shall be sufficient to meet the expense of inspection and enforcement of the building or fire codes. The county engineer shall have the duty of supervising and ensuring that the rules for building inspections are carried out. The board of county commissioners may hire other employees necessary for inspection and enforcement of building or fire codes and may expend funds as it deems reasonable and necessary for equipment and ancillary services.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2001, Section 6, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 389, O.S.L. 2002 (51 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6. A. Except as may be otherwise provided, no person holding an office under the laws of the state and no deputy of any officer so holding any office shall, during the person's term of office, hold any other office or be the deputy of any officer holding any office, under the laws of the state. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

1. Notaries public;
2. Members of the State Textbook Committee;
3. County free fair board members;
4. Municipal and county law enforcement officers serving in positions as law enforcement officers of both such governmental entities upon such terms and conditions as are mutually approved by resolutions adopted by the board of county commissioners and governing body of the municipality employing such officers;

5. Any person holding a county or municipal office or position, or membership on any public trust authority, who is a member of a board or commission that relates to federal, state, county or municipal government and is created by the United States Government, the State of Oklahoma or a political subdivision of the state, except where the duties of the offices or positions conflict;

6. Any elected municipal officers and school board members who are appointed to a state board, commission, or similar entity if there is no compensation for such services other than reimbursement for necessary travel expenses pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

7. Any trustee of a public trust, who is appointed as a trustee of a different public trust or any trustee of the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority who may also be employed by the Department of Transportation;

8. Law enforcement officers employed by municipal or county law enforcement departments or agencies, other than those law enforcement officers elected or appointed as sheriff, chief of police or some similar position in which they are the head of a county or municipal law enforcement agency, who are elected to local boards of education; provided, the provisions of this paragraph shall not prohibit any law enforcement officer employed by a municipality having a population of ten thousand (10,000) or fewer people from serving as a member of a local board of education;

9. Any member of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety who is elected to a local board of education;

10. Any District Supervisor, Assistant District Supervisor, Team Supervisor, Parole Officer 1 or Parole Officer 2 of the Department of Corrections who is elected or appointed to a city council;

11. Any trustee or director of a rural electric cooperative, or port authority who is appointed or elected to a state, county or municipal board, commission or similar entity;

12. County employees who are elected as members of town or city councils;

13. Municipal, county, state or tribal law enforcement or peace officers operating under cross-deputization agreements with an Indian tribe or branch of the federal government;

14. Municipal or county law enforcement or peace officers serving in positions as campus police officers or campus public safety officers pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Campus Security Act, upon such terms and conditions as are mutually approved by resolution adopted by the governing body of the municipality or county and the governing board of the institution of higher education;

15. State law enforcement or peace officers serving in positions as campus police officers or campus public safety officers pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Campus Security Act, upon such terms and conditions as are mutually approved by written agreement between the Commissioner of Public Safety and the governing board of the institution of higher education;

16. Municipal and county law enforcement officers serving in positions as part-time rangers under the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department;

17. The Administrator of a Scenic Rivers Commission serving in the position of a park ranger under the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department;

18. Members of the University Hospitals Authority;

19. Any person holding a state office or position who is a reserve force deputy sheriff or a reserve municipal police officer;

20. Any person holding a state office or position who serves as a special assistant district attorney without compensation;

21. Any elected or appointed member of a local school board who is a member of a municipal planning commission;

22. Any elected or appointed member of a local school board who is a member or an officer of a volunteer fire department;

23. Directors or officers of a rural water district and chiefs of municipal fire departments or rural fire districts who are appointed or elected to an unsalaried office in a state, county, municipal, school, or technology center school board, commission, or similar entity, except where the duties of the office would create a conflict of interest;

24. Any person who is a dispatcher or confinement officer at a municipal or county jail who is a noncompensated reserve municipal police officer or a reserve deputy sheriff; and

25. Any person who is an assistant district attorney serving as a municipal judge or prosecutor.

The provisions of this section shall not prohibit any person holding an office under the laws of the state or any deputy of any officer so holding any office from serving upon the board of Oklahoma Futures or upon the board of directors of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology from serving upon the board of Oklahoma Futures.

B. Any salaries, emoluments or benefits that would otherwise be paid by the agency or political subdivision to a loaned employee or officer shall instead be paid to the regular employer of such employee. The loaned employee shall in turn be paid regular salary and benefits the same as if continuing regular employment with the permanent employer.

SECTION 5. 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.

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