

and

Garrison of the Senate

An Act relating to counties and county officers; amending 19 O.S. 2001, Section 165, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 2005 (19 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 165), which relates to salaries, expenses and deputies; increasing the amount of travel allowance for certain county officers; amending 19 O.S. 2001, Section 527, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 356, O.S.L. 2005 (19 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 527), which relates to authorization for employment of general counsel; adding county commissioners to officers authorized to employ counsel; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2001, Section 165, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 2005 (19 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 165), is amended to read as follows:

Section 165. A. In lieu of reimbursement for traveling expenses within their county each county commissioner and sheriff may receive a monthly travel allowance of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00). In lieu of the reimbursement for traveling expenses authorized by law for each county officer, each county assessor may receive a monthly travel allowance of ~~Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00)~~ Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and each county clerk, court clerk and county treasurer may receive a monthly travel allowance of ~~Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00)~~ Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00). Each such county officer may be subject to the penalty provided by Section 166 of this title for failure to attend the meetings specified in that section.

B. The provisions of this section and Sections 163 and 164 of this title shall not prevent the emergency use of a county-owned vehicle or county-owned equipment by a county officer when such county officer is acting on behalf of the county or when such use is related to county business. As used in this subsection, "emergency" means an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2001, Section 527, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 356, O.S.L. 2005 (19 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 527), is amended to read as follows:

Section 527. The county commissioners, sheriff, treasurer or assessor in a county shall have the authority to employ a general counsel, either in-house as a staff attorney or through an outside law firm, to advise or represent that officer and his or her office in the performance of the official duties of that office. The board of county commissioners shall approve all contracts for outside counsel. A general counsel employed pursuant to this section shall be compensated from the funds of the employing county office.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

Passed the House of Representatives the 13th day of March, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate