

and

Case of the House

An Act relating to counties and county officers; amending 19 O.S. 2001, Section 1502, which relates to identification system for county supplies, materials and equipment; increasing limit of certain supplies and materials subject to a certain inventory system; amending 69 O.S. 2001, Section 624, which relates to county engineers; deleting county limit to employ certain person; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2001, Section 1502, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1502. A. 1. The State Auditor and Inspector or a designated employee of the State Auditor and Inspector's office shall:

- a. prescribe a uniform identification system for all supplies, materials and equipment of a county used in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges; and
- b. create and administer an inventory system for all:
 - (1) equipment of a county having an original cost of ~~Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)~~ Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or more for use in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, and
 - (2) supplies and materials of a county purchased in lots of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or more for use in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.

Such person shall be the county road and bridge inventory officer.

2. a. In counties having a county budget board created pursuant to Sections 1402 et seq. of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes, said board may, upon an affirmative vote of a majority of all the board members then in office, appoint a county road and bridge inventory officer who shall be employed by the county and shall have such duties as are provided in subparagraphs a and b of paragraph 1 of this subsection. In the event the board does not appoint a county road and bridge inventory officer the State Auditor and Inspector or designee shall be the county road and bridge inventory officer. An appointed county road and bridge inventory officer shall be under the general supervision and direction of the appointing authority.
- b. An appointed county road and bridge inventory officer shall be authorized necessary assistants to carry out the duties and responsibilities provided by law and as may be delegated by the appointing authority. Provided, the employment of such assistants shall be upon the approval of the appointing authority. The salary of the county road and bridge inventory officer and assistants shall be fixed by the appointing authority.
- c. An appointed county road and bridge inventory officer shall, at the expense of the county, be authorized adequate office space, furnishings, equipment and supplies to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the county road and bridge inventory officer as provided by law and as may be delegated by the appointing authority. Provided, the acquisition of such furnishings, equipment and supplies shall be upon the approval of the appointing authority and the

acquisition of office space shall be upon the approval of the board of county commissioners.

B. The board of county commissioners shall:

1. Prescribe a uniform identification system for all supplies, materials and equipment of a county not used in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges; and

2. Create and administer an inventory system for all:

a. equipment of a county having an original cost of ~~Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)~~ Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or more and not used in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, and

b. supplies and materials of a county purchased in lots of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or more and not used in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.

The board of county commissioners may designate an employee of that office to administer such inventory system.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2001, Section 624, is amended to read as follows:

Section 624. ~~(a)~~ A. The board of county commissioners of each county shall employ one or more full- or part-time county engineers, who shall perform the duties as provided by law. The county engineer shall receive as compensation a salary to be fixed by the board of county commissioners for his services on road and bridge and other work appertaining thereto, and all necessary and actual expenses incident thereto.

~~(b)~~ B. Any person employed as county engineer may be relieved of his duties by the board of county commissioners.

~~(c)~~ C. The county engineer shall be registered as a professional engineer or certified as an engineer-in-training by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors pursuant to Sections 475.1 et seq. of Title 59 of the

Oklahoma Statutes, and shall have a practical knowledge of civil engineering, be skilled in bridge, culvert and road building and in laying of drains and general road work and be active and diligent in the discharge of his duties.

~~(d)~~ D. The boards of county commissioners ~~of no more than ten counties~~ may enter into an agreement to jointly employ a county engineer. Such agreement shall be written and entered in the minutes of each participating board of county commissioners. The engineer employed under such agreement shall be the designated county engineer for each of the respective counties.

~~(e)~~ E. In the event a board of county commissioners determines that it cannot afford to employ a full-time county engineer, or if it cannot enter into an agreement with other counties to jointly employ a part-time county engineer, then said board shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Transportation for the provision of necessary county engineering services. Any engineering services provided by the Department of Transportation shall be furnished without cost or expense to the county. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve a board of county commissioners of the responsibilities or costs associated with the efficient and necessary construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, culverts and drainage projects within its jurisdiction, or as otherwise provided by law. Road funds shall be withheld from any county failing to employ or utilize county engineering services as provided herein.

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

Passed the Senate the 7th day of March, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2006.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives