STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 339 By: Kerr

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1226.2, which relates to the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority; exempting members of the Authority from the prohibition of dual office holding; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1226.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1226.2 A. There is hereby created a body corporate and politic to be known as the "Native American Cultural and Educational Authority", and by that name the Authority may sue and be sued, and plead and be impleaded. The Authority is hereby constituted an agency of the state, and the exercise by the Authority of the powers conferred by Section 1226 et seq. of this title shall be deemed to be essential governmental functions of the state with all the attributes thereof. Provided, however, the Authority is authorized to carry liability insurance to the extent authorized by the Authority, and in addition thereto it shall be subject to the workers' compensation laws of the State of Oklahoma the same as a private employer. The Department of Commerce shall assist the Authority in fulfilling the responsibilities of Section 1226 et seq. of this title, as requested by the authority.

B. The Authority shall consist of seven appointed members who are members of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe located within this state, six ex officio members and four appointed members from the business community. Each appointed member, excluding ex

officio members, shall have one vote for purposes of conducting the business of the Authority. Except for the members appointed pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection, the appointed members shall be residents of the state, and shall have been qualified electors therein for a period of at least one (1) year preceding their appointment. Any member of the Authority shall be eligible for reappointment, and no member shall be removed from office except for good cause shown. At the expiration of any term, the person holding such office shall continue to serve until such person's duly appointed successor shall be appointed and qualified.

1. Seven members appointed to serve shall serve overlapping terms and shall be chosen as follows: three members shall be appointed by the Governor; two members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Each of these members shall be a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe located within this state. Such tribal membership shall be determined by the respective tribes. Appointments shall be made from names provided by tribal governments, councils or other recognized tribal entities. Appointments shall be restricted to not more than one representative of any tribe. Such appointed members initially appointed shall continue in office for terms of from three (3) to seven (7) years, respectively, from the date of their appointment, with the term of each initially appointed member to be designated by the Governor at the time of the appointment, with one member to be appointed to a three-year term, two members to be appointed to a four-year term, one member to be appointed to a five-year term, one member to be appointed to a six-year term, and two members to be appointed to a seven-year term. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term. Upon the expiration of a term, on or after July 1, 2000, any succeeding term shall be for four (4) years.

2. The six ex officio members shall be as follows: the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, or the designee of the same; the Lieutenant Governor, or the designee of same; the Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, or the designee of same; the Secretary of Commerce, or the designee of same; the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council, or the designee of same; and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, or the designee of the same.

3. The four appointed members from the business community shall be chosen as follows: two members shall be appointed by the Governor; one member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and one member shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Each member shall have at least fifteen (15) years of experience in business, banking, finance or corporate law, and shall have demonstrated outstanding ability in business or industry. However, in lieu of appointing a member with such experience, one of the two members appointed by the Governor may be a person who has exhibited at least three (3) years of outstanding leadership and involvement in recognized Native American organizations and activities. Upon the expiration of a term, on or after July 1, 2000, any succeeding term shall be for four (4) years. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term.

C. The Authority shall elect one of its members as chairperson, and another as vice-chairperson, and also shall elect a secretary, treasurer and such other officers as the Authority may deem appropriate. A majority of the members of the Authority (exclusive of vacancies) shall constitute a quorum and the vote of a majority of the members (exclusive of vacancies) shall be necessary for any action taken by the Authority. No vacancy in the membership of the Authority shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the Authority.

D. Before the issuance of any revenue bonds under the provisions of Section 1226 et seq. of this title, each member of the Authority shall execute a surety bond in the penal sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) and the secretary and treasurer shall execute a surety bond in the penal sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000.00), each such surety bond to be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his or her office, to be executed by a surety company authorized to transact business in the State of Oklahoma as surety, and to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

E. The members of the Authority shall not be entitled to compensation for their services, but each member shall be reimbursed for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of duties on behalf of the Authority, provided that members of the Authority shall be compensated for their travel expenses pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act~~, Section 500.1 et seq. of this title~~. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of Section 1226 et seq. of this title shall be payable solely from funds provided under the authority of Section 1226 et seq. of this title and no liability or obligation shall be incurred by the Authority hereunder beyond the extent to which monies shall have been provided under the authority of Section 1226 et seq. of this title.

F. The Authority is authorized to establish subcommittees as necessary to perform its functions and duties. A subcommittee may be composed of Authority members and/or nonmembers and shall not have more than five members. Nonmembers of a subcommittee shall be reimbursed by the Authority in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

G. Members of the Authority shall be exempt from the provisions of Section 6 of Title 51 of the Oklahoma Statutes, which prohibits

the holding of any other office during the member's term of office on the Commission

SECTION 2. 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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