

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 582

By: Johnson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the historical societies; creating the Heritage Tourism Grant Program; stating purpose of program; providing for the adoption of rules; requiring the Oklahoma Historical Society to review certain grant applications; authorizing certain persons to make certain recommendations; stating property eligible for certain grant; stating certain prohibitions; creating the Oklahoma Heritage Tourism Grant Selection Commission; stating duties; creating the Heritage Tourism Revolving Fund; stating purpose of fund; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6.1 of Title 53, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Historical Society the Heritage Tourism Grant Program.

B. The purpose of the Heritage Tourism Grant Program is to encourage preservation and adaptive use of historic buildings in order to build a greater sense of community and stimulate tourism throughout the state.

C. The Heritage Tourism Grant Program shall also encourage local economic development through the use of financial grants to eligible property owners.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6.2 of Title 53, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Historical Society shall adopt rules administering the Heritage Tourism Grant Program which addresses

topics including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria, application process, grant award amounts, and other program requirements.

B. The Oklahoma Historical Society shall review each grant application for adherence to program requirements that include, but are not limited to, geographical balance, local financial match and the presence of a master plan for the property.

C. The Historical Society professional staff shall make recommendations to the Heritage Tourism Grant Selection Commission on each application submitted for a grant.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6.3 of Title 53, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Property eligible for grants from the Heritage Tourism Grant Program shall include county courthouses.

B. Other eligible property shall include historic buildings owned by the State, Oklahoma cities, towns, or counties, institutions of higher education, local school districts, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes.

C. Eligible property must also be properly designated as a National Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6.4 of Title 53, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Grants awarded under the Heritage Tourism Grant Program shall not be used for administration or personnel costs accruing from eligible properties. Grants may only be used in the preservation of historic property. The grants may be used for architectural services.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6.5 of Title 53, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Heritage Tourism Grant Selection Commission.

B. The Oklahoma Heritage Tourism Grant Selection Commission shall be composed of the following five (5) members:

1. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3. Two members appointed by the Governor; and

4. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, or a designee.

C. The appointing authorities may give consideration to individuals with a demonstrated interest in historic buildings and/or historic preservation in determining the appointment of members to the Commission.

D. The member's terms shall be coterminous with their appointing authority, and the appointing authorities may fill any vacancies as they occur.

E. The Commission shall have the duty of awarding Heritage Tourism Grants to property owners eligible under the provisions of this act. The Commission shall give due consideration to the recommendations of the staff of the Oklahoma Historical Society in determining which entities shall receive grants.

F. The first meeting of the Commission shall be called by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society no later than October 1, 2005, at which time and annually thereafter a chair and vice chair shall be elected from its membership.

G. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Each Commission member

shall be entitled to one vote on the Commission. Any official action of the Commission must have a majority of the votes of the members present.

H. Each member of the Commission shall serve without compensation except that each member of the Commission shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act by their appointing authority.

I. The meetings of the Commission shall be subject to the Open Meeting Act, and the Open Records Act.

J. Staffing for the Commission shall be provided by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6.6 of Title 53, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Historical Society to be designated the "Heritage Tourism Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies deposited to the fund by law, gifts, donations, or private, state or federal funds.

B. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma Historical Society for the purpose of providing grants for the preservation of historic buildings pursuant to the Oklahoma Heritage Tourism Act. Monies accruing to the credit of the fund may also be used for direct costs of the Oklahoma Historical Society in administering the provisions of this act.

C. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the State Office of Finance for approval and payment.

SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

SECTION 8. 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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