

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT  
4 RESOLUTION 1059

By: McDaniel (Jeannie)

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Concurrent Resolution requesting the Department of  
8 Transportation to take certain steps regarding  
9 mowing, signage and wildflowers; and directing  
10 distribution.

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is responsible for  
12 the construction, operation and maintenance of state and interstate  
13 highways; and

14 WHEREAS, the number of acres mowed annually by the Department  
15 increased from 159,342 in 1986 to 447,234 during 2006; and

16 WHEREAS, the annual expenditure for mowing by the Department  
17 increased from \$2,192,667.00 in 1986 to \$5,824,681.00 during 2006;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the state wildflower, the Indian Blanket, and other  
20 native wildflowers grow on highway rights-of-way; and

21 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public to save money,  
22 and to enhance our quality of life by supporting effective  
23 landscaping techniques and beautification efforts; and

24 WHEREAS, the increased mowing frequency by the

1 Department and the standard practice of fenceline-to-fenceline  
2 mowing including the mowing of back slopes by the Department is:

3 1. Annually costing millions of dollars that could be used for  
4 maintaining and repairing roads and bridges;

5 2. Destroying scenic enhancements of wildflowers that  
6 communities, organizations and individuals throughout the state have  
7 funded for years;

8 3. Negatively impacting Oklahoma's spectacular and widespread  
9 heritage of native flowers and grasses; and

10 4. Causing rutting and erosion when back slopes are mowed in  
11 wet conditions, creating the added expense of repairing erosion  
12 damage.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
14 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE  
15 CONCURRING THEREIN:

16 THAT the Department of Transportation is hereby requested to  
17 reduce the extent and frequency of mowing along state highways and  
18 interstates.

19 THAT the Department of Transportation is hereby requested to  
20 continue mowing shoulders and other areas as needed for safety and  
21 drainage purposes.

22 THAT the Department of Transportation is hereby requested to  
23 delay mowing back slopes and wide medians in rural areas until  
24 October of each year and delay mowing within urban areas until July

1 of each year to allow wildflowers and other native plants to reseed.  
2 When a drought emergency is declared by the Governor of Oklahoma,  
3 the entire roadside may be mowed or made available for haying.

4 THAT the Department of Transportation is hereby requested to  
5 erect and maintain signs identifying all sponsored wildflower plots.

6 THAT the Department of Transportation is hereby requested to  
7 purchase and sow replacement wildflower seeds when wildflower  
8 plantings paid for by private contributions are destroyed or  
9 otherwise negatively impacted from mowing by Department personnel or  
10 others working under the direction of the Department.

11 THAT duly authenticated copies of this resolution be dispatched  
12 to the Department of Transportation.

13

14 51-2-10266 CJB 02/21/08

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24