

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1592

By: Coody, Kern, Faught,
Pittman and Tibbs of the
House

and

Barrington of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1-117, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 173, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1-117), which relates to the general fund; making interest on lease payments a capital expenditure; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 5-116a, which relates to bonds for officers and employees; requiring the superintendent and financial officers of a school district to furnish a surety bond; setting amount of the surety bond; modifying authorization for a school district to provide surety bond coverage for certain officers and employees; 70 O.S. 2001, Section 5-117, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 472, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 5-117), which relates to the powers and duties of a board of education; deleting certain limitation of rental of real and personal property; specifying certain rights of a school district under a lease-purchase agreement; allowing a school district to use certain bond proceeds to make lease-purchase payments; defining certain term; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Section 213, which relates to examination of public institutions by the State Auditor and Inspector; requiring the State Auditor and Inspector to conduct a special audit of a certain number of school districts each year; making audits contingent upon funding; limiting size of school district; directing the State Auditor and Inspector to determine the form of the special audit; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1-117, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 173, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1-117), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-117. A. The general fund of any school district is hereby defined as a current expense fund and shall consist of all revenue or monies that can legally be expended within a certain specified fiscal year, but shall not be considered as including any money derived from a special building fund levy made in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, nor shall it include any monies derived from the sale of bonds issued under the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution. All monies derived from the proceeds of the school levies made pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall be placed in the general fund provided by this section. Expenditures from the general fund shall be noncapital in nature. All monies derived from state-dedicated revenue, state-appropriated revenue unless otherwise provided for by law, and county sources shall be placed in the general fund provided for by this section. Except as provided for in subsections K and L of this section, a district shall not be authorized to make capital expenditures as defined by this section from the general fund.

B. For purposes of this section, state-dedicated revenue shall be any registration or license fees, taxes, or penalties collected at the state level and distributed to common school districts. County sources shall be all funds collected by the county and distributed to common school districts but shall not include any funds derived from the building fund levy made in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution or funds derived from the sinking fund levy made in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

C. For the purposes of this section, a capital expenditure shall be an expenditure which results in the acquisition of fixed assets or additions to fixed assets. Capital expenditures shall include, but shall not be limited to, purchases of land or existing buildings, purchases of real property, improvements of grounds and sites for construction purposes, all expenditures for construction of buildings unless authorized by the State Board of Education or the State Board of Career and Technology Education upon application

to the appropriate state board pursuant to subsection F of this section, additions to buildings, remodeling of buildings if such remodeling involves changes to roof structures or load-bearing walls, professional services, salaries and expenses of architects and engineers hired or assigned to capital projects except for such services, salaries and expenses as are applicable in preparation for a bond issue, expenditures for the initial installation and extension of service systems and built-in heat or air equipment to existing buildings, expenditures for the replacement of a building which has been destroyed, installments and lease payments on property, ~~excluding~~ including interest, that have a terminal date and result in the acquisition of property, and expenditures for preliminary studies made prior to the time that authority to proceed with a construction project is given if authority is received within the same fiscal year that the expenditure was made.

D. Noncapital expenditures shall include, but shall not be limited to expenditures for maintenance, repair and replacement of property and equipment, initial or additional purchases of furniture and equipment, direct expenses for maintenance of plant, including grounds, salaries for maintenance of plant, including salaries for the upkeep of grounds, and repair and replacement of building structures which do not add to existing facilities and which do not involve changes in roof structures or load-bearing walls and which are not classified as a capital expenditure by this section.

E. The State Board of Education shall adopt and amend regulations regarding the classification, definition and financial administration of funds, accounts and expenditures in accordance with the requirements of this section.

F. A school district shall be authorized to make capital expenditures from the general fund to defray the cost of rebuilding a school building only if a school building or facility has been destroyed by a fire or natural disaster, such as flood, tornado or other act of God, or by an act of a public enemy of the United States or this state and monies received by the district through insurance coverage, federal reimbursement, contributions and allocation from the State Board of Education from the State Public Common School Building Equalization Fund are insufficient to rebuild the facility. Capital expenditures from the general fund pursuant to this subsection shall be limited to an amount necessary to defray the cost of rebuilding the facility which exceeds monies received by the school district through insurance, federal reimbursement, contributions and state allocations.

G. Schools which receive gifts or donations or state-appropriated monies for the purpose of capital expenditures or projects shall place such monies in the building fund, as provided by Section 1-118 of this title, and not in the general fund. School districts which receive gifts, grants, or donations of monies for noncapital expenditures may place the monies in the general fund, and such monies shall not be required to be used during the year in which the money was received but may accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered a part of the general fund collections when calculating the general fund carryover as provided for in subsection G of Section 18-200.1 of this title.

H. School districts which receive monies from rental, sale, or lease of buildings, impact aid monies, or grants, gifts or donations for capital purposes, whether from state, federal, or other sources, may place such monies in the building fund authorized by Section 1-118 of this title or the general fund authorized by this section.

I. Any construction of a building included as a capital expenditure from the general fund of a school district which is authorized and has had a contractual agreement concerning such construction executed prior to July 1, 1991, may be proceeded with and completed as authorized prior to July 1, 1991, as a capital expenditure from such general fund.

J. School districts receiving revenues authorized by Section 9B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall be authorized to make capital expenditures from the general revenue fund no greater than the amount levied by the incentive millage.

K. Upon the approval of the State Board of Education, a school district shall be authorized to make capital expenditures as defined in this section from its general fund if:

1. A bond issue has been rejected at an election by the school district electors voting on that question within the current school year, as certified by the secretary of the county election board; or

2. The school district has voted indebtedness at any time within the preceding three (3) school years through the issuance of bonds or through approval by voters of issuance of new bonds for more than eighty-five percent (85%) of the maximum allowable pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution as shown on the school district budget filed with the State Board of Equalization for the current school year and

certifications by the Attorney General prior to April 1 of the current school year. The State Board of Education shall establish the rules to administer the provisions of this subsection which shall include, but not be limited to, specification of a maximum amount of general fund monies to be used for capital expenditures, the purposes for which such funds may be expended and the period of time in which such funds shall be encumbered.

L. Other provisions of this section notwithstanding, a school district shall be authorized to make capital expenditures from the general fund if the total assessed property valuation per average daily attendance is less than sixty percent (60%) of the state average total assessed property valuation per average daily attendance and if, for each year in which general fund revenue is used for capital expenditures, the district has voted the five-mill building fund levy authorized in Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution and has voted indebtedness through the issuance of new bonds for at least eighty-five percent (85%) within the last three (3) years of the maximum allowable pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution as shown on the school district budget filed with the State Board of Equalization for the current school year and certifications by the Attorney General prior to April 1 of the school year. Provided, the maximum amount of general fund revenue used for capital expenditures pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total yearly revenue to the general fund. Said fund may not be used for capital expenditures for more than five (5) consecutive years and may only be utilized for remodeling or construction of classroom facilities and such ancillary facilities to said classrooms as may be necessary. Provided, further, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall certify in writing, prior to the expenditure of the funds for which provision is made in this subsection, that such expenditures are in compliance with the provisions of this subsection.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 5-116a, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-116a. A. The superintendent and any financial officer of a school district shall be required to furnish a surety bond in the penal sum of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) or an amount otherwise set by law or set by the State Board of Education, to be approved as provided by law, and to assure the faithful performance of the duties of the covered officer and employees.

B. Whenever, by any presently existing law of this state or by any law hereafter enacted, the superintendent or any officer or other employee of any school district is required to furnish a surety bond as a prerequisite to employment, such as provided for in this section or any other law, the requirement as to terms, conditions, penalty, amount or quality or type of surety shall be and is hereby deemed and defined to mean the furnishing of a separate bond or surety contract for each individual officer or employee, or the furnishing of a "blanket bond" which is defined as. For purposes of this section, "blanket bond" means a school district officer and employees blanket position bond which covers all officers and employees up to the penalty of the bond for each officer and employee and the full penalty of the bond is always enforced during its term and no restoration is necessary and there is no additional premium after a loss is paid. Such bond

C. All surety bonds as required by this section or other laws shall be furnished by a company duly qualified under the insurance laws of this state and shall be purchased by the school district. The Each surety bond shall be payable to the school district and, whenever possible, conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of the individuals covered during their employment or term of office and that they will properly account for all monies and property received by virtue of their position or employment.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 5-117, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 472, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 5-117), is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-117. A. The board of education of each school district shall have power to:

1. Elect its own officers; provided that the chair of the board authorized in Section 5-107B of this title shall be elected by the electors of the school district;

2. Make rules, not inconsistent with the law or rules of the State Board of Education, governing the board and the school system of the district;

3. Maintain and operate a complete public school system of such character as the board of education shall deem best suited to the needs of the school district;

4. Designate the schools to be attended by the children of the district;

5. Provide and operate, when deemed advisable, cafeterias or other eating accommodations, thrift banks or other facilities for the teaching and practice of thrift and economy, bookstores, print shops, and vocational and other shops;

6. Provide informational material concerning school bond elections and millage elections, including but not limited to all pertinent financial information relative to the bond issue, a statement of revenue sources necessary to retire proposed bonds, a statement of current bonded indebtedness of the school district, and a statement of proposed use of funds to be generated by the proposed bond issue. The informational material shall not contain the words "vote yes" or "vote no" or any similar words or statement any place on such informational material;

7. Purchase, construct or rent, and operate and maintain, classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, recreation places and playgrounds, teacherages, school bus garages, laboratories, administration buildings, and other schoolhouses and school buildings, and acquire sites and equipment therefor;

8. a. Insure the school district or its employees against any loss, damage or liability as defined by Sections 702 through 708 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or other forms of insurance provided for in Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

b. Subject to the restrictions of liability in the Governmental Tort Claims Act:

(1) insure the school district against all or any part of any liability it may incur for death, injury or disability of any person, or for damage to property, either real or personal,

(2) insure any employee of the school district against all or any part of the employee's liability for injury or damage resulting from an act or omission in the scope of employment, or

- (3) insure against the expense of defending a claim against the school district or its employee, whether or not liability exists on such claim.
- c. As used in this subsection, "employee" means any person who has acted in behalf of a school district, whether that person is acting on a permanent or temporary basis with or without being compensated or on a full-time or part-time basis. Employee also includes all elected or appointed officers, members of governing bodies of a school district, and persons appointed, and other persons designated by a school district to act in its behalf.
 - d. The cost or premium of any such insurance is a proper expenditure of the school district.
 - e. Any insurance authorized by law to be purchased, obtained or provided by a school district may be provided by:
 - (1) self-insurance, which may be, but is not required to be, funded by appropriations to establish or maintain reserves for self-insurance purposes. Any self-insurance reserve fund shall be nonfiscal and shall not be considered in computing any levy when the school district makes its annual estimate for needed appropriations,
 - (2) insurance in any insurer authorized to transact insurance in this state,
 - (3) insurance secured in accordance with any other method provided by law, or
 - (4) any combination of insurance authorized by this section.
 - f. Two or more school districts or public agencies, by interlocal agreement made pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, may provide insurance for any purpose by any one or more of the methods specified in this section. The pooling of self-insured reserves, claims or losses among governments as authorized in this section shall not be construed to be transacting

insurance nor otherwise subject to the provisions of the laws of this state regulating insurance or insurance companies. Two or more school districts may also be insured under a master policy or contract of insurance. Premium costs may be set individually for each school district or apportioned among participating school districts as provided by the master policy or contract;

9. Acquire property by condemnation proceedings in the same manner as land is condemned for railroad purposes. School district funds may be used to erect buildings on leased land on which other buildings have been erected prior to April 3, 1969, or on land which is leased from a governmental entity;

10. Lease real or personal property to the state or any political subdivision thereof or a not-for-profit entity operating pursuant to Section 868 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes for nominal cash consideration for so long as the use of the property by the lessee substantially benefits, in whole or in part, the same public served by the school district;

11. Dispose of personal or real property no longer needed by the district by sale, exchange, lease, lease-purchase, sale and partial lease back, or otherwise. Real property shall be conveyed pursuant to a public sale, public bid, or private sale; provided however, unless otherwise prohibited by law, the board of education of a consolidated or annexed school district may convey real property to a local political subdivision without consideration. Prior to the sale of any real property, the board of education shall have the real property appraised. The appraisal shall be confidential until the real property is sold. When the real property is sold, the board of education shall make the appraisal available for public inspection. Prior to the conveyance of any real property by private sale, the board of education shall have offered the real property for sale by public sale or public bid. Any conveyance of real property by private sale to a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation to be used for public purposes, unless for exchange, shall contain a reversionary clause which returns the real property to the board of education upon the cessation of the use without profit or for public purposes by the purchaser or the assigns of the purchaser;

12. Purchase necessary property, equipment, furniture, and supplies necessary to maintain and operate an adequate school system;

13. Incur all expenses, within the limitations provided for by law, necessary to perform all powers granted by the provisions of this section;

14. Contract with and fix the duties and compensation of physicians, dentists, optometrists, nurses, attorneys, superintendents, principals, teachers, bus drivers, janitors, and other necessary employees of the district;

15. Establish a written policy for reimbursement of necessary travel expenses of employees and members of the board. The policy may include in-district travel from the site of employment assignment which is necessary in the performance of employment duties. The written policy shall specify procedures, contain documentation requirements, and may include payment of meal expenses during authorized travel on a per diem allowance basis rather than itemized documentation;

16. Pay necessary travel expenses and other related expenses of prospective employees for sponsored visits to the school district pursuant to a written policy specifying procedures containing documentation requirements equal to or greater than the requirements specified by law for state employees in the State Travel Reimbursement Act;

17. Provide for employees' leaves of absence without pay;

18. Exercise sole control over all the schools and property of the district, subject to other provisions of the Oklahoma School Code;

19. Allow district-owned school buses to be used for transportation of students from other districts or educational institutions while within the district on educational tours. This shall not restrict the authority of the board to authorize any other use of such buses which may now be permitted by law or rule of the State Board of Education;

20. Enter into contractual agreements with the board of trustees of a multicounty library system, as defined in Section 4-103 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a city-county library

commission, as defined in Section 152 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or a rural single county library system, as defined in Section 1-104 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, on such terms as may be mutually agreed, except no district board of education may enter into any agreement under which the library services for the school would be provided at any site other than the school site or which would result in library services that do not meet accreditation standards as required by law or rule;

21. Perform all functions necessary to the administration of a school district in Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code, and in addition thereto, those powers necessarily implied but not delegated by law to any other agency or official;

22. Prepare and distribute at the expense of the school district any and all material which has the purpose of informing the public about district activities;

23. Solicit and accept any gift, grant, or donation of money or property for the use of the school district. Any gift, grant, or donation of money may be deposited in the general fund or building fund of the school district; and

24. Pay necessary meal and lodging expenses of school district students and sponsors involved in authorized school-sponsored cocurricular activities. The board of education shall establish a written policy for reimbursement of necessary meal and lodging expenses of school district students and sponsors. The written policy shall specify procedures, contain documentation requirements, and designate the funds from which reimbursement may be made. Reimbursement may be made from the General Fund.

B. The board of education of any school district may rent, ~~on a monthly basis,~~ real and personal property, if such items are necessary for the operation of the school, and pay the rental charges for the usage during any fiscal year, or portion thereof, out of appropriations made and approved for current expense purposes during the fiscal year. Any ~~such~~ rental contract extending beyond June 30 of ~~such~~ the fiscal year shall be void unless it contains provisions for mutual ratification of renewal pursuant to the conditions provided for in this subsection. It is the intent of this subsection to authorize boards of education to enter into lease contracts but not to incur any obligation against the school district in excess of the income and revenue provided for such purposes for the fiscal year in which ~~such~~ the lease contract is

operative. Any lease or lease-purchase agreement entered into by any board of education shall state the purchase price of real or personal property so leased. The lease or lease-purchase shall not be extended so as to cause payment of more than the original purchase price of the real or personal property, plus interest not to exceed the legal rate. When the purchase price plus interest has been paid, the property shall belong to the lessee and the lessor shall deliver a deed or bill of sale to the property to the lessee. When any real or personal property has been leased or rented during any fiscal year pursuant to the provisions of any contract which permits continuance of ~~such~~ the rental for the remainder of ~~such~~ the fiscal year, the renting or leasing ~~thereof~~ must of the property shall be continued for the remainder of the fiscal year unless the board of education renting or leasing the same certifies by proper resolution entered in the minutes of the board of education that the continuance of ~~such~~ the rental is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Any lease-purchase agreement entered into shall include the right of a school district to acquire buildings, equipment or other facilities or discrete components thereof or improve school sites through a lease-purchase agreement. A school district may use proceeds derived from the sale of bonds as authorized by Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution to make lease-purchase payments, including interest, under a lease-purchase agreement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "acquired" as used in Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall mean the possession, control, or power to dispose of personal or real property.

C. The boards of education of two or more school districts may enter into cooperative agreements and maintain joint programs including, but not limited to, courses of instruction for handicapped children, courses of instruction in music and other subjects, practical instruction for trades and vocations, practical instruction in driver training courses, and health programs including visual care by persons legally licensed for such purpose, without favoritism as to either profession. The revenues necessary to operate a joint program approved in cooperative agreements, whether from federal, state or local sources, including the individual contributions of participating school districts, shall be deposited into a fund separate from all other appropriated funds. The beginning fund balance each year, combined with all actual revenues, including collected and estimated revenues, must be appropriated before being expended. Purchase orders shall be issued against available appropriations and, once goods or services have been received, either payable or nonpayable warrants shall be issued

in payment of all purchase orders. The fund shall be reported as a separate appropriated fund in all the financial reports of the school district which is chosen by the other school districts to keep the accounting records of the joint program.

D. The boards of education of two or more school districts may enter into a mutual contract or separate contracts with a superintendent, administrator, or teacher or with a person to provide support services, to serve as superintendent, administrator, or teacher, as appropriately qualified, or to provide support services, for each contracting district upon such terms and conditions as the parties may agree. Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize or require annexation or consolidation of any school districts or the closing of any school site except pursuant to law as set forth in Section 7-101 et seq. of this title.

E. Any school district may operate or maintain a school or schools on any military reservation which is within the boundaries of the school district or which is adjacent to the school district, and provide the instruction in the school or schools to children of personnel on the military reservation and, in doing so, shall conform to all federal laws and requirements.

F. The board of education of each school district shall adopt and maintain on file in the office of the superintendent of schools appropriate personnel policy and sick leave guide. The guide shall be made available to the public.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 213, is amended to read as follows:

Section 213. A. It shall be the duty of the State Auditor and Inspector to examine and report upon the books and financial accounts of the public, educational, charitable, penal and reformatory institutions belonging to the state; to prescribe and enforce correct methods of keeping financial accounts of the state institutions and instruct the proper officers thereof in the performance of their duties concerning the same; to examine the books and accounts of all public institutions under the control of the state at least once each year. Any officer of such public, educational, charitable, penal and reformatory institutions who shall refuse or willfully neglect to comply with such direction of the State Auditor and Inspector within a reasonable time shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

B. Each board of regents of institutions in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall require a quality control review of the internal audit function required pursuant to subsection D of Section 3909 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes for each institution under its governance at least once every three (3) years. This review shall be in accordance with the "Quality Assurance Review Manual for Internal Auditing" developed by the Institute of Internal Auditors or any successor organization thereto. A copy of the report on the quality control review shall be filed with the State Auditor and Inspector.

C. The State Auditor and Inspector shall perform a special audit on common school districts and technology center districts upon receiving a written request to do so by any of the following: the Governor, Attorney General, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, State Board of Education, or the technology center school district board. The State Auditor and Inspector shall perform a special audit on any institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education whenever the State Auditor and Inspector deems it appropriate or upon receiving a written request to do so by any of the following: the Governor, the Attorney General, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the governing board of the institution of higher education, or the president of the institution of higher education. The special audit shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, a compliance audit. The special audit shall be conducted according to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' "Statements on Auditing Standards". Such audits shall be designed to review items for management's compliance with statutes, rules, policies and internal control procedures or other items applicable to each entity. The costs of any such audit shall be borne by the audited entity and may be defrayed, in whole or in part, by any federal funds available for that purpose.

D. In addition to any special audit conducted by the State Auditor and Inspector as provided for in subsection C of this section, the State Auditor and Inspector shall, contingent upon the availability of funding, perform a special audit, without notice, on not more than four common school districts with an average daily membership (ADM) of less than one thousand (1,000) each year. The special audit shall be in a form as determined by the State Auditor and Inspector.

E. The State Auditor and Inspector shall perform a special audit without notice on the office of any district attorney or on any division of the Department of Corrections upon receiving a written request to do so by any of the following: the Governor, the Attorney General, or joint request of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The State Auditor and Inspector shall perform a special audit without notice on any penal institution, corrections program, contract for service or prison bed space provided to the Department of Corrections, or any program administered by a district attorney's office or staff of such office whenever the State Auditor and Inspector deems it appropriate or upon receiving a written request to do so by any of the following: the Governor, the Attorney General, or joint request of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The special audit shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, a compliance audit. Such audits shall be designed to review items for compliance with statutes, rules, policies and internal control procedures or other items applicable to each entity. The costs of any such audit shall be paid by the state agency and may be defrayed, in whole or in part, by any federal funds available for that purpose through any audited program.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

SECTION 6. 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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 18th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate