

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, February 26, 2009

House Bill No. 2229

HOUSE BILL NO. 2229 - By: JETT of the House and JOLLEY of the Senate.

An Act relating to state government; creating the Honorary Consular Officer for Foreign Governments Nomination Act; stating purpose of the act; defining term; creating the Advisory Council on Honorary Consular Officers for Foreign Governments Nominations; providing for membership; stating responsibilities of the Council; requiring the Secretary of State to process, forward and verify certain information and documents; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

- 1           SECTION 1.   NEW LAW   A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma  
2 Statutes as Section 9040 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering,  
3 reads as follows:
- 4           A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Honorary Consular Officer for  
5 Foreign Governments Nomination Act”.
- 6           B. The purpose of the Honorary Consular Officer for Foreign Governments  
7 Nomination Act shall be to encourage individuals to seek nomination as honorary  
8 consular officers of a foreign government, to recognize the positions in Oklahoma, and to  
9 implement guidelines and a system for expediting the processing of nominations of  
10 individuals.

1 C. For purposes of this act, an “honorary consular officer” shall mean an individual  
2 who has been appointed by a foreign government to reside in Oklahoma and to represent  
3 the business, educational, cultural, and humanitarian interest of citizens of the foreign  
4 country in Oklahoma. Honorary consul shall not have any official diplomatic status.

5 D. There is hereby created the Advisory Council on Honorary Consular Officers for  
6 Foreign Governments Nominations. The Advisory Council shall be composed of  
7 representatives from the following, to be appointed by the Governor:

- 8 1. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce;
- 9 2. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department;
- 10 3. The State Regents for Higher Education; and
- 11 4. The International Trade Development Council.

12 E. The Secretary of State shall serve as chair of the Advisory Council.

13 F. The Advisory Council shall be responsible for developing guidelines for  
14 recommending individuals to serve as honorary consular officers, for soliciting  
15 individuals to serve as honorary consular officers, and reviewing and making  
16 recommendations on individuals who have been nominated to serve as honorary consular  
17 officers by a foreign government. The Advisory Council shall forward all  
18 recommendations to the Oklahoma Secretary of State within sixty (60) days of receiving  
19 a nomination. A member of the Legislature, a state government official, or any citizen of  
20 the state may nominate an individual. The Advisory Council shall also assist individuals  
21 who have been nominated in completing the nomination process.

1 G. The Secretary of State shall be responsible for processing and forwarding any  
2 state information and documents needed by an individual nominated to serve as an  
3 honorary consular officer to the Office of Protocol for the United States Department of  
4 State and to the embassy of the foreign country for which the individual has been  
5 nominated to serve. The Secretary of State shall process a request for information or  
6 documents within sixty (60) days of receipt. The Secretary of State shall also verify or  
7 authenticate any documents, if required.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND  
10 TOURISM, dated 02-25-09 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.