

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 2229

By: Jett

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9040 of Title 74, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Honorary
22 Consular Officer for Foreign Governments Nomination Act".

23 B. The purpose of the Honorary Consular Officer for Foreign
24 Governments Nomination Act shall be to encourage individuals to seek
nomination as honorary consular officers of a foreign government, to
recognize the positions in Oklahoma, and to implement guidelines and

1 a system for expediting the processing of nominations of
2 individuals.

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

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

- 13 1. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce;
- 14 2. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department;
- 15 3. The State Regents for Higher Education; and
- 16 4. The International Trade Development Council.

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

19 F. The Advisory Council shall be responsible for developing
20 guidelines for recommending individuals to serve as honorary
21 consular officers, for soliciting individuals to serve as honorary
22 consular officers, and reviewing and making recommendations on
23 individuals who have been nominated to serve as honorary consular
24 officers by a foreign government. The Advisory Council shall

1 forward all recommendations to the Oklahoma Secretary of State
2 within sixty (60) days of receiving a nomination. A member of the
3 Legislature, a state government official, or any citizen of the
4 state may nominate an individual. The Advisory Council shall also
5 assist individuals who have been nominated in completing the
6 nomination process.

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

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

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