

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 SENATE BILL 2176

By: Branan

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to roads, bridges and ferries;
8 amending 69 O.S. 2001, Section 101, which relates to
9 legislative intent; updating name of certain entity;
10 and providing an effective date.

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

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2001, Section 101, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 101. ~~(a)~~A. Recognizing that safe and efficient highway
15 transportation is a matter of important interest to all the people
16 in the state, the Legislature hereby determines and declares that an
17 integrated system of roads and highways is essential to the general
18 welfare of the State of Oklahoma.

19 ~~(b)~~B. The provision of such a system of facilities, and its
20 efficient management, operation and control, are recognized as
21 urgent problems, and as the proper objectives of highway
22 legislation.

23 ~~(c)~~C. Inadequate roads and streets obstruct the free flow of
24 traffic; result in undue cost of motor vehicle operation; endanger

1 the health and safety of the citizens of the state; depreciate
2 property values; and impede generally economic and social progress
3 of the state.

4 ~~(d)~~D. In designating the highway systems of this state, as
5 hereinafter provided, the Legislature places a high degree of trust
6 in the hands of those officials whose duty it shall be, within the
7 limits of available funds, to plan, develop, operate, maintain and
8 protect the highway facilities of this state, for present as well as
9 for future use.

10 ~~(e)~~E. To this end, it is the intent of the Legislature to make
11 the State ~~Highway~~ Transportation Commission and its Director, and
12 the Department of Highways of the State of Oklahoma acting through
13 the Commission, custodian of the State Highway System and to provide
14 sufficiently broad authority to enable the Commission and the
15 Department to function adequately and efficiently in all areas of
16 appropriate jurisdiction, subject to the limitations of the
17 Constitution and the legislative mandate hereinafter imposed.

18 ~~(f)~~F. The Legislature intends to declare, in general terms, the
19 powers and duties of the Commission and its Director, leaving
20 specific details to be determined by reasonable rules, regulations
21 and policies which may be promulgated by the Commission. In short,
22 the Legislature intends by a general grant of authority to the
23 Commission to delegate sufficient power and authority to enable the
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1 Commission and the Department to carry out the broad objectives
2 stated above.

3 ~~(g)~~G. It is the further intent of the Legislature to bestow
4 upon the boards of county commissioners similar authority with
5 respect to the county highway system. The efficient management,
6 operation and control of our county roads and other public
7 thoroughfares are likewise a matter of vital public interest. The
8 problem of establishing and maintaining adequate roads and highways,
9 eliminating congestion, reducing accident frequency, providing
10 parking facilities and taking all necessary steps to ensure safe and
11 convenient transportation on these public ways is no less urgent.

12 ~~(h)~~H. While it is necessary to fix responsibilities for the
13 location, design, construction, maintenance and operation of the
14 several systems of highways, it is intended that the State of
15 Oklahoma shall have an integrated system of all roads, highways and
16 streets to provide safe and efficient highway transportation
17 throughout the state. The authority hereinafter granted to the
18 Commission and to counties and municipalities to assist and
19 cooperate with each other and to coordinate their activities is
20 therefore essential.

21 ~~(i)~~I. The Legislature hereby determines and declares that this
22 Code is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health
23 and safety, for promotion of the general welfare, and as a
24 contribution to the national defense.

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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

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