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February 20, 2017

By: Newberry

An Act relating to county sheriffs; amending 19 O.S. 2011, Section 527, which relates to employment of general counsel; authorizing a county sheriff to employ outside counsel under certain circumstances; providing for termination of counsel employment under certain circumstances; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2011, Section 527, is amended to read as follows:

Section 527. A. The sheriff, treasurer or assessor in a county shall have the authority to employ a general counsel, either in-house as a staff attorney or through an outside law firm, to advise or represent that officer and his or her office in the performance of the official duties of that office. The Board of County Commissioners shall approve all contracts for outside counsel. A general counsel employed pursuant to this section shall be compensated from the funds of the employing county office.

B. The sheriff may employ outside counsel pursuant to this  
section to provide immediate representation in a deputy-involved

1 shooting; provided, such employment shall not continue if the deputy  
2 involved is charged with any crime arising from the shooting.

3 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
4 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
5 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
6 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
8 February 20, 2017 - DO PASS  
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