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February 28, 2017

By: Bice

An Act relating to circuit engineering districts; amending 69 O.S. 2011, Section 687.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 193, O.S.L. 2013 (69 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 687.1), which relates to the duties of circuit engineering districts; providing for certain audits of certain districts; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2011, Section 687.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 193, O.S.L. 2013 (69 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 687.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 687.1. A. The board of county commissioners of any county in this state may create a circuit engineering district with any other county or counties. The objectives of the circuit engineering district shall be:

1. To allow county governments to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with each other and other units of government on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic,

1 economic, population and other factors influencing the needs and
2 development of county government;

3 2. To provide research and research support to county
4 government;

5 3. To provide assistance to county governments in performing
6 the functions delegated by law including, but not limited to, the
7 operation of road maintenance, construction, inspection, and
8 equipment purchases and management;

9 4. To conduct public discussion groups, forums, panels,
10 lectures, and other similar programs;

11 5. To present courses of instruction and education;

12 6. To obtain, develop and present scientific and all other
13 types of information relative to the operation of the public
14 transportation system in this state;

15 7. For long-range planning and growth of the transportation
16 system within the circuit engineering district and other circuit
17 engineering districts within this state; and

18 8. To provide services to counties in a coordinated manner that
19 will improve the quality of the transportation system and be cost
20 effective.

21 B. The authority of the circuit engineering district shall be
22 as follows:

23 1. To comply with and carry out the provisions of the
24 Interlocal Cooperation Act;

1 2. To advise and assist its members with how to implement and
2 make an effective transportation plan for the best interest of each
3 member of the circuit engineering district;

4 3. To prepare such programs of research as may be necessary and
5 advisable in carrying out its purposes;

6 4. To contract for services with persons, firms or units of
7 government to carry out the purposes of the circuit engineering
8 district;

9 5. To provide periodic reports for the circuit engineering
10 district or for its members as may be required by federal or state
11 legislation or regulations pertaining thereto, and as are within the
12 scope and range of the purpose of the circuit engineering district;

13 6. To acquire and hold property for its use and to incur
14 expenses to carry out its functions;

15 7. To receive gifts, contributions and donations to carry out
16 the purposes for which it is formed;

17 8. To assess its members for the services rendered in carrying
18 out its functions;

19 9. To apply for, contract for, administer, receive and expend
20 funds or grants from any participating member, the State of
21 Oklahoma, the federal government, or any other source; and

22 10. To publish studies in connection with its work which may be
23 of benefit to its members or other agencies within and outside of
24 the circuit engineering district.

1 C. Circuit engineering districts may, by affirmative vote of
2 their board, determine that the association representing the county
3 commissioners of Oklahoma be designated to negotiate for services,
4 required by law or necessity, on behalf of the circuit engineering
5 districts.

6 D. The circuit engineering district shall conduct an
7 independent audit upon completion of each fiscal year.

8 E. The board of directors may employ an attorney to provide
9 legal research, advice and opinions on contracts and other matters
10 which may come before the board of directors.

11 F. The State Auditor and Inspector shall prescribe the
12 necessary rules, forms and procedures to provide for the efficient
13 and timely means by which the pool purchase of supplies and
14 equipment may be accomplished on behalf of the participating
15 counties. The rules, forms and procedures developed by the State
16 Auditor and Inspector for pool purchasing may be utilized by the
17 Oklahoma Department of Transportation County Advisory Board in
18 coordination with the circuit engineering districts for the purpose
19 of pool purchasing utilizing funds from the County Road Machinery
20 and Equipment Revolving Fund. For the purpose of obtaining access
21 to pricing and bids available on a national level, counties shall be
22 eligible to participate in such pool purchasing in a manner as
23 determined by the State Auditor and Inspector.

1 G. Circuit engineering districts may participate in the County
2 Road Machinery and Equipment Revolving Fund pursuant to the
3 provisions of Section 302.1 of this title.

4 H. Circuit engineering districts are authorized to organize a
5 statewide board consisting of the chairpersons duly elected by each
6 of their respective circuit engineering districts. The statewide
7 board organized pursuant to this section shall:

8 1. Have the power to conduct business, including the
9 development of policies and procedures, incur expenses, and contract
10 for services so long as such business furthers the provisions of
11 this ~~act~~ section;

12 2. Coordinate activities between circuit engineering districts;

13 3. Administer the Statewide Circuit Engineering District
14 Revolving Fund, created pursuant to Section 687.2 of this title; and

15 4. Have authority to promulgate rules to carry out the
16 provisions of this ~~act~~ section.

17 I. A circuit engineering district created pursuant to this
18 section shall be deemed a political subdivision of the state.

19 J. A district may hire up to one registered professional
20 engineer per three counties within each circuit engineering
21 district.

22 K. The Office of the State Auditor and Inspector shall annually
23 perform a complete financial audit of all the operations and
24 accounts of each circuit engineering district. The audits shall be

1 filed in accordance with the requirements set forth for financial
2 statement audits in Section 212A of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
3 Statutes.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
6 February 28, 2017 - DO PASS
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