

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 1611

By: Floyd

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to boards of education; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 5-117, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 5-117), which relates to powers and duties of boards of education; directing a nonprofit organization that is leasing certain property to be given the right of first refusal to purchase the property; establishing terms and conditions for such sale; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 5-117, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 5-117), is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-117. A. The board of education of each school district shall have power to:

1 1. Elect its own officers; provided that the chair of the board
2 authorized in Section 5-107B of this title shall be elected by the
3 electors of the school district;

4 2. Make rules, not inconsistent with the law or rules of the
5 State Board of Education, governing the board and the school system
6 of the district, including converting all or part of a traditional
7 public school to a conversion school;

8 3. Maintain and operate a complete public school system of such
9 character as the board of education shall deem best suited to the
10 needs of the school district;

11 4. Designate the schools to be attended by the children of the
12 district;

13 5. Provide and operate, when deemed advisable, cafeterias or
14 other eating accommodations, thrift banks or other facilities for
15 the teaching and practice of thrift and economy, bookstores, print
16 shops, and vocational and other shops;

17 6. Provide informational material concerning school bond
18 elections and millage elections, including but not limited to all
19 pertinent financial information relative to the bond issue, a
20 statement of revenue sources necessary to retire proposed bonds, a
21 statement of current bonded indebtedness of the school district, and
22 a statement of proposed use of funds to be generated by the proposed
23 bond issue. The informational material shall not contain the words
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1 "vote yes" or "vote no" or any similar words or statement any place
2 on such informational material;

3 7. Purchase, construct or rent, and operate and maintain,
4 classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, recreation
5 places and playgrounds, teacherages, school bus garages,
6 laboratories, administration buildings, and other schoolhouses and
7 school buildings, and acquire sites and equipment for the operation
8 of public schools or conversion schools;

9 8. a. Insure the school district or its employees against
10 any loss, damage or liability as defined by Sections
11 702 through 708 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
12 or other forms of insurance provided for in Title 36
13 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

14 b. Subject to the restrictions of liability in the
15 Governmental Tort Claims Act:

- 16 (1) insure the school district against all or any
17 part of any liability it may incur for death,
18 injury or disability of any person, or for damage
19 to property, either real or personal,
20 (2) insure any employee of the school district
21 against all or any part of the employee's
22 liability for injury or damage resulting from an
23 act or omission in the scope of employment, or
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1 (3) insure against the expense of defending a claim
2 against the school district or its employee,
3 whether or not liability exists on such claim.

4 c. As used in this subsection, "employee" means any
5 person who has acted in behalf of a school district,
6 whether that person is acting on a permanent or
7 temporary basis with or without being compensated or
8 on a full-time or part-time basis. Employee also
9 includes all elected or appointed officers, members of
10 governing bodies of a school district, and persons
11 appointed, and other persons designated by a school
12 district to act in its behalf.

13 d. The cost or premium of any such insurance is a proper
14 expenditure of the school district.

15 e. Any insurance authorized by law to be purchased,
16 obtained or provided by a school district may be
17 provided by:

18 (1) self-insurance, which may be, but is not required
19 to be, funded by appropriations to establish or
20 maintain reserves for self-insurance purposes.
21 Any self-insurance reserve fund shall be
22 nonfiscal and shall not be considered in
23 computing any levy when the school district makes
24 its annual estimate for needed appropriations,

- 1 (2) insurance in any insurer authorized to transact
2 insurance in this state,
3 (3) insurance secured in accordance with any other
4 method provided by law, or
5 (4) any combination of insurance authorized by this
6 section.

7 f. Two or more school districts or public agencies, by
8 interlocal agreement made pursuant to the Interlocal
9 Cooperation Act, may provide insurance for any purpose
10 by any one or more of the methods specified in this
11 section. The pooling of self-insured reserves, claims
12 or losses among governments as authorized in this
13 section shall not be construed to be transacting
14 insurance nor otherwise subject to the provisions of
15 the laws of this state regulating insurance or
16 insurance companies, except as to the provisions of
17 Section 607.1 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
18 Two or more school districts may also be insured under
19 a master policy or contract of insurance. Premium
20 costs may be set individually for each school district
21 or apportioned among participating school districts as
22 provided by the master policy or contract;

23 9. Acquire property by condemnation proceedings in the same
24 manner as land is condemned for railroad purposes. School district

1 funds may be used to erect buildings on leased land on which other
2 buildings have been erected prior to April 3, 1969, or on land which
3 is leased from a governmental entity;

4 10. Lease real or personal property to the state or any
5 political subdivision thereof or a not-for-profit entity operating
6 pursuant to Section 868 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes for
7 nominal cash consideration for so long as the use of the property by
8 the lessee substantially benefits, in whole or in part, the same
9 public served by the school district;

10 11. a. Dispose of personal or real property no longer needed
11 by the district by sale, exchange, lease, lease-
12 purchase, sale and partial lease back, or otherwise.
13 Real property shall be conveyed pursuant to a public
14 sale, public bid, or private sale; provided however,
15 unless otherwise prohibited by law, the board of
16 education of a consolidated or annexed school district
17 or any other school district may convey real property
18 to a local political subdivision or to an educational
19 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
20 Education or to a housing authority formed pursuant to
21 the provisions of Section 1057 of Title 63 of the
22 Oklahoma Statutes without consideration. Prior to the
23 sale of any real property, the board of education
24 shall have the real property appraised. The appraisal

1 shall be confidential until the real property is sold.
2 When the real property is sold, the board of education
3 shall make the appraisal available for public
4 inspection. Prior to the conveyance of any real
5 property by private sale, the board of education shall
6 have offered the real property for sale by public sale
7 or public bid. Any conveyance of real property by
8 private sale to a nonprofit organization, association,
9 or corporation to be used for public purposes, unless
10 for exchange, shall contain a reversionary clause
11 which returns the real property to the board of
12 education upon the cessation of the use without profit
13 or for public purposes by the purchaser or the assigns
14 of the purchaser,

15 b. If a board of education makes the decision to dispose
16 of real or personal property that is leased by a
17 nonprofit organization at the time the decision is
18 made, whether such disposal is by public sale, public
19 bid or private sale, the nonprofit organization shall
20 have a right of first refusal to purchase the property
21 on the following terms and conditions:

22 (1) If a board of education receives a bid or offer
23 in a public sale, public bid or private sale for
24 any real or personal property that it desires to

1 accept, then it shall provide notice to the
2 nonprofit organization leasing the property. The
3 notice shall include the identity of the
4 prospective purchaser of the property, the terms
5 and conditions of the proposed sale and the
6 purchase price to be paid by the prospective
7 purchaser, and

8 (2) The nonprofit organization shall have thirty (30)
9 days after receipt of the notice to inform the
10 board of education that it elects to purchase the
11 property on the same terms and conditions set
12 forth in the notice, in which event the board of
13 education shall convey the property to the
14 nonprofit organization on all the same terms and
15 conditions set forth in the notice; provided,
16 however, that if any portion of the consideration
17 included in the purchase price set forth in the
18 notice is not in cash, then the nonprofit
19 organization shall be entitled to pay the fair
20 market value in cash of such non-cash
21 consideration;

22 12. Purchase necessary property, equipment, furniture, and
23 supplies necessary to maintain and operate an adequate school
24 system;

1 13. Incur all expenses, within the limitations provided for by
2 law, necessary to perform all powers granted by the provisions of
3 this section;

4 14. Contract with and fix the duties and compensation of
5 physicians, dentists, optometrists, nurses, attorneys,
6 superintendents, principals, teachers, bus drivers, janitors, and
7 other necessary employees of the district;

8 15. Establish a written policy for reimbursement of necessary
9 travel expenses of employees and members of the board. The policy
10 may include in-district travel from the site of employment
11 assignment which is necessary in the performance of employment
12 duties. The written policy shall specify procedures, contain
13 documentation requirements, and may include payment of meal expenses
14 during authorized travel on a per diem allowance basis rather than
15 itemized documentation;

16 16. Pay necessary travel expenses and other related expenses of
17 prospective employees for sponsored visits to the school district
18 pursuant to a written policy specifying procedures containing
19 documentation requirements equal to or greater than the requirements
20 specified by law for state employees in the State Travel
21 Reimbursement Act;

22 17. Provide for employees' leaves of absence without pay;
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1 18. Exercise sole control over all the schools and property of
2 the district, subject to other provisions of the Oklahoma School
3 Code;

4 19. Allow district-owned school buses to be used for
5 transportation of students from other districts or educational
6 institutions while within the district on educational tours. This
7 shall not restrict the authority of the board to authorize any other
8 use of such buses which may now be permitted by law or rule of the
9 State Board of Education;

10 20. Enter into contractual agreements with the board of
11 trustees of a multicounty library system, as defined in Section 4-
12 103 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a city-county library
13 commission, as defined in Section 152 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma
14 Statutes, or a rural single county library system, as defined in
15 Section 1-104 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, on such terms as
16 may be mutually agreed, except no district board of education may
17 enter into any agreement under which the library services for the
18 school would be provided at any site other than the school site or
19 which would result in library services that do not meet
20 accreditation standards as required by law or rule;

21 21. Perform all functions necessary to the administration of a
22 school district in Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School
23 Code, and in addition thereto, those powers necessarily implied but
24 not delegated by law to any other agency or official;

1 22. Prepare and distribute at the expense of the school
2 district any and all material which has the purpose of informing the
3 public about district activities;

4 23. Solicit and accept any gift, grant, or donation of money or
5 property for the use of the school district. Any gift, grant, or
6 donation of money may be deposited in the general fund or building
7 fund of the school district; and

8 24. Pay necessary meal and lodging expenses of school district
9 students and sponsors involved in authorized school-sponsored
10 cocurricular activities. The board of education shall establish a
11 written policy for reimbursement of necessary meal and lodging
12 expenses of school district students and sponsors. The written
13 policy shall specify procedures, contain documentation requirements,
14 and designate the funds from which reimbursement may be made.
15 Reimbursement may be made from the General Fund.

16 B. The board of education of any school district may rent real
17 and personal property, if such items are necessary for the operation
18 of the school, and pay the rental charges for the usage during any
19 fiscal year, or portion thereof, out of appropriations made and
20 approved for current expense purposes during the fiscal year. Any
21 rental contract extending beyond June 30 of the fiscal year shall be
22 void unless it contains provisions for mutual ratification of
23 renewal pursuant to the conditions provided for in this subsection.
24 It is the intent of this subsection to authorize boards of education

1 to enter into lease contracts but not to incur any obligation
2 against the school district in excess of the income and revenue
3 provided for such purposes for the fiscal year in which the lease
4 contract is operative. Any lease or lease-purchase agreement
5 entered into by any board of education shall state the purchase
6 price of real or personal property so leased. The lease or lease-
7 purchase shall not be extended so as to cause payment of more than
8 the original purchase price of the real or personal property, plus
9 interest not to exceed the legal rate. When the purchase price plus
10 interest has been paid, the property shall belong to the lessee and
11 the lessor shall deliver a deed or bill of sale to the property to
12 the lessee. When any real or personal property has been leased or
13 rented during any fiscal year pursuant to the provisions of any
14 contract which permits continuance of the rental for the remainder
15 of the fiscal year, the renting or leasing of the property shall be
16 continued for the remainder of the fiscal year unless the board of
17 education renting or leasing the same certifies by proper resolution
18 entered in the minutes of the board of education that the
19 continuance of the rental is unnecessary and contrary to the public
20 interest. Any lease-purchase agreement entered into shall include
21 the right of a school district to acquire buildings, equipment or
22 other facilities or discrete components thereof or improve school
23 sites through a lease-purchase agreement. A school district may use
24 proceeds derived from the sale of bonds as authorized by Section 26

1 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution to make lease-purchase
2 payments, including interest, under a lease-purchase agreement. For
3 purposes of this subsection, the term "acquired" as used in Section
4 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall mean the
5 possession, control, or power to dispose of personal or real
6 property.

7 C. The boards of education of two or more school districts may
8 enter into cooperative agreements and maintain joint programs
9 including, but not limited to, courses of instruction for
10 handicapped children, courses of instruction in music and other
11 subjects, practical instruction for trades and vocations, practical
12 instruction in driver training courses, and health programs
13 including visual care by persons legally licensed for such purpose,
14 without favoritism as to either profession. The revenues necessary
15 to operate a joint program approved in cooperative agreements,
16 whether from federal, state or local sources, including the
17 individual contributions of participating school districts, shall be
18 deposited into a fund separate from all other appropriated funds.
19 The beginning fund balance each year, combined with all actual
20 revenues, including collected and estimated revenues, must be
21 appropriated before being expended. Purchase orders shall be issued
22 against available appropriations and, once goods or services have
23 been received, either payable or nonpayable warrants shall be issued
24 in payment of all purchase orders. The fund shall be reported as a

1 separate appropriated fund in all the financial reports of the
2 school district which is chosen by the other school districts to
3 keep the accounting records of the joint program.

4 D. The boards of education of two or more school districts may
5 enter into a mutual contract or separate contracts with a
6 superintendent, administrator, or teacher or with a person to
7 provide support services, to serve as superintendent, administrator,
8 or teacher, as appropriately qualified, or to provide support
9 services, for each contracting district upon such terms and
10 conditions as the parties may agree. Nothing in this ~~act~~ section
11 shall be construed to authorize or require annexation or
12 consolidation of any school districts or the closing of any school
13 site except pursuant to law as set forth in Section 7-101 et seq. of
14 this title.

15 E. Any school district may operate or maintain a school or
16 schools on any military reservation which is within the boundaries
17 of the school district or which is adjacent to the school district,
18 and provide the instruction in the school or schools to children of
19 personnel on the military reservation and, in doing so, shall
20 conform to all federal laws and requirements.

21 F. The board of education of each school district shall adopt
22 and maintain on file in the office of the superintendent of schools
23 appropriate personnel policy and sick leave guide. The guide shall
24 be made available to the public.

1 G. The board of education of any school district with an
2 average daily membership of thirty thousand (30,000) or more and all
3 or part of which school district is located in a county having more
4 than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the
5 latest Federal Decennial Census may contract with a public or
6 private nonsectarian entity for that entity to provide educational
7 and administrative services for the school district. The
8 educational services provided by a contracting entity may include
9 but are not limited to the delivery of instructional service in core
10 and noncore academic subjects to the students enrolled in the school
11 district at one or more school sites or parts of sites within the
12 district pursuant to the terms of an educational services contract.
13 All educational service providers and their employees and
14 representatives and all educational and administrative services
15 provided under an educational services contract shall be exempt from
16 all statutes and rules relating to schools, boards of education and
17 school districts to the same extent that a charter school is exempt
18 under the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. For all purposes, including
19 but not limited to attendance, funding from all sources and
20 accountability, all students who are provided services by a
21 contracting entity pursuant to an educational services contract
22 shall at all times be and remain students of the school district.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.
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1 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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