Bill Summary 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.: SB 1477
Version: INT
Request No.: 2477
Author: Sen. Dahm
Date: 01/15/2020

Bill Analysis

SB 1477 creates the Oklahoma Sovereignty Act and establishes the Joint Committee on Federal Action. The Committee is empowered by the measure to review federal actions that challenge the sovereignty of the state and of the people and may determine the constitutionality of a federal action. The committee shall consist of 12 members, 6 of which shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and 6 of which shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House. Members of the Committee shall serve 2-year terms.

In considering whether an action is unconstitutional, the measure outlines factors for the Committee to consider. If the Committee votes to label an action unconstitutional, the action shall be forwarded to the Legislature. If a majority of the members of each chamber determine that the federal action is an unconstitutional federal action, the determination shall be sent to the Governor for approval or disapproval. If the Governor approves the vote, the action shall be declared unconstitutional by the Legislature. An unconstitutional federal action shall not have the force of law in this state nor may any state agency or subdivision expend any funds to implement or enforce a federal action declared to be an unconstitutional federal action.

The Secretary of State shall forward official copies of the declaration to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to all members of the Oklahoma delegation to Congress, with the request that the declaration of unconstitutional federal action be entered in the Congressional Record.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor