

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend SB994 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by
inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Amendment submitted by: Kevin West

Adopted: _____

Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

PROPOSED
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 994

By: Dahm of the Senate

and

West (Kevin) of the House

PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to eminent domain; amending 27 O.S. 2011, Sections 5 and 17, which relate to local governments and resale of surplus property; conforming language; defining terms; prohibiting taking of private property unless for certain uses and with compensation; requiring court to strictly construe certain provisions; prohibiting expansion of eminent domain powers absent statutory authority; providing exception; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 27 O.S. 2011, Section 5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Any county, city, town, township, school district, or board of education, or any board or official having charge of cemeteries created and existing under the laws of this state, shall have power to condemn lands in like manner as railroad companies,

1 for highways, rights-of-way, building sites, cemeteries, public
2 parks and other public ~~purposes~~ uses.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 27 O.S. 2011, Section 17, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 17. A. In the event that a portion of the total amount
6 of real property taken by eminent domain under the procedures set
7 forth in ~~Title 27 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title for a public
8 ~~purpose use~~ as described in Section 9 of ~~Title 27 of the Oklahoma~~
9 ~~Statutes~~ this title is not used for the ~~purposes~~ uses for which it
10 was condemned or for another public use by the agency or other
11 entity which acquired the real property, the portion of the real
12 property that is not used shall be declared surplus and shall be
13 first offered for resale to the person from whom the property was
14 taken or the heirs of the person at the appraised value or the
15 original price at which the acquiring agency or entity purchased
16 that portion of the property, whichever is less.

17 B. For purposes of complying with subsection A of this section,
18 the agency or entity which acquired the real property by
19 condemnation shall notify the former landowner of the right of first
20 refusal by sending notice by certified mail, return receipt
21 requested, to the last-known address of the person as provided by
22 the person. If the mail is returned as not subject to delivery or
23 the former landowner is deceased, notice of the right of first
24 refusal shall be provided by publication in a newspaper of general

1 circulation in the community where the real property is located.
2 The notice shall contain the name of the former landowner and a
3 legal description of the surplus property. If the offer to
4 repurchase is not accepted within ninety (90) days from the date of
5 notice or if the offer to repurchase is not accepted from the date
6 the resale price on the property is determined, the property may
7 then be sold at public sale.

8 C. This section shall not apply to conveyances for
9 redevelopment under Sections 38-101 through 38-123 of Title 11 of
10 the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 41 of Title 27, unless there is
13 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 For the purposes of this act:

15 1. "Abandoned property" means either of the following:

16 a. a property that has been substantially unoccupied or
17 unused for any commercial or residential purpose for
18 at least one (1) year by a person with a legal or
19 equitable right to occupy the property that has been
20 cited as a public nuisance in violation of a housing,
21 maintenance, building or property code which has not
22 been remedied within a reasonable time after two
23 notices to cure the noncompliance and has had a public
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1 hearing and a subsequent court proceeding made
2 available to the property owner, or

3 b. a property for which property taxes have not been paid
4 for at least two (2) years;

5 2. "Blighted property" means a structure that was inspected by
6 the appropriate government entity, cited for one or more enforceable
7 housing, maintenance, building or property code violations which by
8 reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age or obsolescence of the
9 structure threatens the health and safety of the occupants or the
10 public, has not been remedied within a reasonable time after two
11 notices to cure the noncompliance, and has had a public hearing and
12 a subsequent court proceeding made available to the property owner;
13 and

14 3. "Public use" means:

- 15 a. the possession, occupation, ownership and enjoyment of
16 the land by the general public, or by a government
17 entity for use as a public highway, road, easement or
18 a right-of-way, public building, public cemetery,
19 public park or other public use,
- 20 b. the possession, occupation and ownership of land
21 necessary for operations of a public utility that
22 serves the general public,
- 23 c. the remediation of a blighted property, or
- 24 d. the possession of an abandoned property.

1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 42 of Title 27, unless there is
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. Private property may not be taken or damaged by a condemning
5 authority unless the taking or damage is necessary for a public use
6 and with just compensation. The public purpose or public benefit of
7 economic development, including an increase in tax base, tax
8 revenues, employment or general economic health, does not constitute
9 a public use.

10 B. The court shall strictly construe eminent domain statutes in
11 favor of the property owner and against the condemning authority.

12 C. A governmental body subordinate to the state may not
13 exercise, create, extend or expand a power of eminent domain in the
14 absence of statutory authority. Additional procedures, remedies or
15 limitations that do not deny or diminish the substantive and
16 procedural rights and protections of property owners under this
17 section may be provided by other law, ordinance or charter.

18 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.
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