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February 11, 2021

By: Hall of the Senate

and

Mize of the House

An Act relating to counties and county officers; amending 19 O.S. 2011, Section 455, which relates to county reward fund; providing for a plea agreement in dispersion of reward; providing for consideration by board of county commissioners and local law enforcement following attorney's report; providing criteria by which the board of county commissioners may consider reward amount; requiring conviction or plea agreement before dispersion of reward; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2011, Section 455, is amended to read as follows:

Section 455. A. The board of county commissioners of each county is hereby authorized to offer and pay a reward, from county funds, in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the arrest and conviction or plea agreement, or for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction or plea agreement of any person stealing or defacing county road signs or any other county property.

1 B. The board of county commissioners may create and maintain a
2 reward fund of not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) from
3 which to pay the rewards provided for in subsection A of this
4 section.

5 C. All claims relating to a conviction or plea agreement shall
6 be considered together by the board of county commissioners and
7 local law enforcement following receipt of the prosecuting
8 attorney's report.

9 D. In determining the amount of the reward, the board of county
10 commissioners shall have sole discretion to honor or deny the claim,
11 but shall consider:

12 1. The severity of the offense;

13 2. The size of the fine imposed;

14 3. The number of persons claiming a reward and the degree to
15 which each claimant was responsible for the arrest or conviction;

16 4. The burden, if any, incurred by the claimant including cost
17 to appear at trial; and

18 5. Other factors which the board or governing body deems
19 appropriate.

20 E. No reward shall be authorized by the county until the
21 conviction or plea agreement of the accused.

22 F. Any person convicted under subsection A of this section may
23 in lieu of the fine be required to deposit like amount into the
24 county reward fund.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective December 1, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT
February 11, 2021 - DO PASS