

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

February 8, 2024

SENATE BILL NO. 1548

By: Alvord of the Senate

and

Newton of the House

An Act relating to state department vehicle fleets; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 156, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 272, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 156), which relates to the purchase of vehicles with public funds; adding Department of Environmental Quality to certain list of exemptions; updating statutory references; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 156, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 272, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 156), is amended to read as follows:

Section 156. A. Unless otherwise provided for by law, no state board, commission, department, institution, official, or employee, except the following, shall purchase any passenger automobile or bus with public funds:

1. The Department of Public Safety;
2. The Department of Human Services;
3. The State Department of Rehabilitation Services;

1 4. The Department of Wildlife Conservation;
2 5. The Department of Corrections;
3 6. The State Department of Education;
4 7. The Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics;
5 8. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
6 Control;
7 9. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation;
8 10. The Transportation Commission;
9 11. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry;
10 12. The State Department of Health;
11 13. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
12 Services;
13 14. The J.D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental
14 Disabilities;
15 15. The Military Department of the State of Oklahoma;
16 16. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department;
17 17. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission;
18 18. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board;
19 19. The Department of Mines;
20 20. The Office of Juvenile Affairs;
21 21. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs;
22 22. The ~~Oklahoma~~ Supreme Court;
23 23. The District Attorneys Council and Oklahoma district
24 attorneys, provided adequate funding exists;

- 1 24. The Oklahoma Boll Weevil Eradication Organization;
2 25. The Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission; ~~and~~
3 26. The Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training; and
4 27. The Department of Environmental Quality.

5 B. 1. The Oklahoma School for the Deaf at Sulphur, the
6 Oklahoma School for the Blind at Muskogee, and any state institution
7 of higher education may purchase, own, or keep if now owned, or
8 acquire by lease or gift, and use and maintain such station wagons,
9 automobiles, trucks, or buses as are reasonably necessary for the
10 implementation of the educational programs of ~~said~~ such
11 institutions.

12 2. No bus operated, owned, or used by such educational
13 institutions shall be permitted to carry any person other than
14 students, faculty members, employees, or volunteers of such
15 institutions. The provisions of this section shall not be construed
16 to prohibit:

- 17 a. the operation of intracampus buses or buses routed
18 directly between portions of the campus of any
19 institution not adjacent to each other, nor to
20 prohibit the collection of fares from such students,
21 faculty members, or employees of such institutions,
22 sufficient in amount to cover the reasonable cost of
23 such transportation, or
24

1 b. the Oklahoma School for the Blind or the Oklahoma
2 School for the Deaf from entering into agreements with
3 local public school districts pursuant to the
4 Interlocal Cooperation Act for the mutual use of the
5 schools' and the districts' vehicles. Such use may
6 include, but is not limited to, the transportation of
7 students from local school districts with students
8 from the Oklahoma School for the Blind or the Oklahoma
9 School for the Deaf in vehicles owned by the Oklahoma
10 School for the Blind or the Oklahoma School for the
11 Deaf when traveling to school-related activities.

12 C. The J.D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental
13 Disabilities, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma
14 Department of Veterans Affairs, and the ~~Oklahoma Veterans Centers~~
15 State Veterans Homes may own and maintain such passenger vehicles as
16 those institutions have acquired prior to May 1, 1981.

17 D. The use of station wagons, automobiles, and buses, other
18 than as provided for in this section, shall be permitted only upon
19 written request for such use by heads of departments of the
20 institution, approved in writing by the president of ~~said~~ such
21 institution or by some administrative official of ~~said~~ such
22 institution authorized by the president to grant ~~said~~ the approval.
23 Such use shall be permitted only for official institutional business
24 or activities connected therewith. Such use shall be subject to the

1 provisions of Section 156.1 of this title forbidding personal use of
2 such vehicles, and to the penalties therein declared.

3 E. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this
4 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by
5 fine or imprisonment, or both, as provided for in Section 156.1 of
6 this title.

7 F. For the purpose of this section and Section 156.3 of this
8 title, a station wagon is classified as a passenger automobile and
9 may not be purchased solely for the use of transporting property.
10 Such vehicles shall include, but not be limited to, all vehicles
11 which have no separate luggage compartment or trunk but which do not
12 have open beds, whether the same are called station wagons, vans,
13 suburbans, town and country, blazers, or any other names. All state
14 boards, commissions, departments, and institutions may own and
15 maintain station wagons purchased solely for the purpose of
16 transporting property if acquired prior to July 1, 1985.

17 G. The provisions of this section and Section 156.1 of this
18 title shall not apply to public officials who are statewide elected
19 commissioners.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
22 February 8, 2024 - DO PASS
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