

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 15, 2024

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1668

By: Haste

4
5
6 An Act relating to sheriffs, undersheriffs, and
7 deputies; amending 19 O.S. 2021, Section 547, which
8 relates to sheriffs, undersheriffs, and deputies;
9 enabling sheriffs to contract for the guarding of
10 prisoners in need of outside medical care; updating
11 statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 547, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 547. A. The sheriff shall be responsible for the
16 official acts of the undersheriff and deputy sheriffs, and may
17 revoke such appointments at the pleasure of the sheriff; provided,
18 however, for counties with a population of five hundred thousand
19 (500,000) or more persons, according to the latest Federal Decennial
20 Census, with the exception of chief deputies and undersheriffs, all
21 deputy sheriffs and detention officers shall serve a five-year
22 probationary period during which the deputy sheriff or detention
23 officer shall be considered an at-will employee. After the five-
24 year probationary period, such deputy sheriff or detention officer
shall not be discharged except for just cause. The sheriff or the

1 undersheriff may in writing depute certain persons to do particular
2 acts.

3 B. Each sheriff may appoint as many reserve force deputy
4 sheriffs as are necessary to preserve the peace and dignity of the
5 county. A current list of each person holding such appointment
6 shall be maintained by the county sheriff and shall be available to
7 the public. Reserve force deputy sheriffs may perform duties which
8 encompass a particular act or a series of acts. The sheriff or a
9 ~~CLEET-certified~~ Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training-
10 certified deputy sheriff shall accompany a reserve force deputy
11 sheriff in the performance of all duties assigned to such reserve
12 force deputy sheriff unless such reserve deputy has completed the
13 required two-hundred-forty-hour basic police course. Reserve force
14 deputies may receive compensation for their services. The sheriff
15 may pay reserve force deputies for travel expenses pursuant to the
16 State Travel Reimbursement Act. Such reserve deputy sheriffs shall
17 complete a two-hundred-forty-hour basic police course within six (6)
18 months after they have been commissioned to be paid by the county as
19 an individual reserve deputy. The sheriff may pay for additional
20 training courses attended by reserve force deputies.

21 C. Reserve force deputy sheriffs shall not serve more than one
22 hundred forty (140) hours per calendar month.

23 D. The sheriff or a designee may deputize municipal police
24 officers subject to an interlocal governmental agreement to combine

1 city and county law enforcement efforts and to encourage cooperation
2 between city and county law enforcement officials. Liability for
3 the conduct of any municipal police officers deputized under the
4 terms and conditions of an interlocal governmental agreement shall
5 remain the responsibility of their municipal employer.

6 E. The sheriff may enter into mutual aid agreements pursuant to
7 the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Section 1002 et seq. of Title 74 of
8 the Oklahoma Statutes, to assist or provide law enforcement services
9 to any town, city, and county within this state and the sheriff and
10 deputies shall have law enforcement authority within the
11 jurisdiction making the request. The employing governmental unit
12 shall remain responsible for their officers or deputies pursuant to
13 any mutual aid agreement.

14 F. A sheriff of the county may respond to any request from any
15 other jurisdiction within the state for law enforcement assistance
16 in cases of emergency. The sheriff, deputy sheriffs and reserve
17 deputy sheriffs serving in response to the emergency request shall
18 have the same powers and duties as though employed by the requesting
19 law enforcement agency, and when so acting they shall be deemed to
20 be acting within the scope of employment of the requesting law
21 enforcement agency. Salaries, insurance and other benefits shall be
22 provided in the regular manner by the county in which the sheriff,
23 deputy sheriffs and reserve deputy sheriffs are regularly employed.
24 As used in this subsection, "emergency" means a sudden and

1 unforeseeable occurrence or condition, either as to its onset or its
2 extent, of such severity or magnitude that immediate response or
3 action is necessary to assist law enforcement agencies having
4 jurisdiction at the scene of the emergency to carry out their
5 functions.

6 G. A reserve force deputy sheriff shall be authorized to serve
7 civil process pursuant to Section 2004 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma
8 Statutes.

9 H. The sheriff may contract with a private security firm that
10 meets the requirements set forth in Sections 1750.1 through 1750.14
11 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes to guard any detainee or
12 prisoner temporarily housed for treatment in a medical facility
13 outside the confines of the jail.

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

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
16 February 15, 2024 - DO PASS

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24