

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

POLICY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2445

By: Hill

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to roads, bridges, and ferries;
amending 69 O.S. 2021, Section 4020, which relates to
the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Forward Commission
Act; modifying the short title; amending 69 O.S.
2021, Section 4020.1, which relates to the commission
purpose; updating references to the commission name;
amending 69 O.S. 2021, Section 4020.2, which relates
to commission duties; updating reference to
commission name; modifying sunset date; and providing
an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2021, Section 4020, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 4020. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
"Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Forward Commission Act".

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2021, Section 4020.1, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 4020.1. Route 66 is one of the original highways within
the U.S. Highway System. Officially, the numerical designation 66
was assigned to the Chicago-to-Los Angeles route on November 11,

1 1926. From the outset, public road planners intended U.S. 66 to
2 connect the main streets of rural and urban communities along its
3 course for the most practical of reasons; most small towns had no
4 prior access to a major national thoroughfare. This was certainly
5 true in Oklahoma. Oklahoma's stretch of Route 66 runs from Miami
6 through Tulsa and Oklahoma City to Erick, passing through cities and
7 towns of all sizes and vast expanses of rural landscape, before
8 entering Texas and continuing on its way to Santa Monica,
9 California. The Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Forward Commission is
10 established to plan, coordinate and implement programs and special
11 events to celebrate the historic highway's centennial in 2026 with
12 the support of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

13 The centennial is an opportunity to celebrate the important
14 history of Route 66 in Oklahoma through commemorative, educational
15 and community events, including programs and exhibits about the
16 history of how local communities grew and changed with construction
17 of the highway; the development of a modern transportation system;
18 the cultural impact of Route 66 both within the United States and
19 internationally; the portrayal of Route 66 in music, artwork and
20 folklore; and how we maintain the mystique and appeal of Route 66
21 for future generations.

22 The study, preservation and maintenance of Route-66-related
23 resources has been a public/private partnership in Oklahoma for
24 decades. Government agencies, private organizations and individual

1 citizens have played critical roles in these efforts, and the
2 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Forward Commission shall seek input
3 from these partners and the general public as it develops plans for
4 the celebration and encourages their participation.

5 The significance of the Oklahoma stretch of Route 66 is
6 demonstrated through its status as both a state and a National
7 Scenic Byway and as a segment of the Route 66 National Historic
8 Trail (legislation for NHT designation is pending in the U.S.
9 Congress). Dozens of Oklahoma properties are related to Route 66,
10 such as roadbed segments, bridges, commercial buildings, service
11 stations and tourist attractions, and are listed in the National
12 Register of Historic Places. The significance of the highway is
13 further recognized through the National Trust for Historic
14 Preservation's selection of the entire length of the highway as one
15 of its National Treasures.

16 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2021, Section 4020.2, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 4020.2. A. The Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Forward
19 Commission shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members. Appointed
20 members shall reflect the interests, history and importance of the
21 communities along Route 66 in Oklahoma. The members are appointed
22 as follows:

23 1. Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House
24 of Representatives;

1 2. Two members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
2 of the Senate;

3 3. Three members of the public shall be appointed by the
4 Governor; and

5 4. Fourteen ex officio members shall be appointed as follows:

6 a. the Governor or his or her designee,

7 b. the Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as
8 chairperson, or his or her designee,

9 c. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of
10 Transportation or his or her designee,

11 d. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical
12 Society or his or her designee,

13 e. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of
14 Commerce or his or her designee,

15 f. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and
16 Recreation Department or his or her designee,

17 g. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council or
18 his or her designee,

19 h. the President of the Route 66 Alliance or his or her
20 designee,

21 i. the President of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association or
22 his or her designee,

23 j. the Executive Director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.,
24 or his or her designee,

- k. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Museums Association or his or her designee,
- l. the Executive Director of Oklahoma Humanities or his or her designee,
- m. the Director of the Oklahoma Municipal League or his or her designee, and
- n. the President of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce or his or her designee.

An ex officio member of the Commission vacates the person's position on the Commission if the person ceases to hold the position that qualifies the person for service on the Commission.

B. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the times and places in this state that the Commission designates. A majority of the members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for transacting Commission business. Subject to appropriation, the Oklahoma Historical Society shall provide administrative and other support to the Commission.

C. The Commission shall:

1. Plan and sponsor official Route 66 Centennial events, programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the Route 66 Centennial;
2. Encourage the development of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the Route 66 Centennial events; and

1 3. Make available to the public, to the best of the
2 Commission's ability, information on Route 66 Centennial events
3 happening throughout the State of Oklahoma.

4 D. The Commission may accept monetary gifts, grants or
5 appropriations from any public or private source to be held in a
6 nonappropriated revolving fund authorized for the Oklahoma
7 Historical Society and expended solely for the use of the Commission
8 in performing the Commission's powers and duties under this act.
9 The Commission may also accept in-kind gifts.

10 E. Each member of the Commission shall serve without
11 compensation or reimbursement for travel related to Commission
12 duties, aside from the compensation he or she might otherwise
13 receive as authorized by law.

14 F. The Commission shall be dissolved on ~~June 30, 2027~~ June 30,
15 2030, and any assets remaining in the Commission's trust fund shall
16 be deposited into the state's General Revenue Fund. A final report
17 on the activities of the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Forward
18 Commission shall be delivered to the Governor no later than ~~June 30,~~
19 ~~2027~~ June 30, 2030.

20 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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