

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 2048

By: Pugh

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the State Travel Reimbursement  
8 Act; amending 74 O.S. 2021, Section 500.2, as amended  
9 by Section 1, Chapter 63, O.S.L. 2022 (74 O.S. Supp.  
10 2025, Section 500.2), which relates to reimbursable  
11 expenses; requiring electronic submission of certain  
12 report; allowing the Statewide Charter School Board  
13 to enter into certain contracts and establish certain  
14 accounts; providing limit for certain costs; updating  
15 statutory language; providing an effective date; and  
16 declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 500.2, as  
19 amended by Section 1, Chapter 63, O.S.L. 2022 (74 O.S. Supp. 2025,  
20 Section 500.2), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 500.2. A. Officials and employees of the state,  
22 traveling on authorized state business, may be reimbursed for  
23 expenses incurred in such travel in accordance with the provisions  
24 of the State Travel Reimbursement Act and existing statutes relating  
to state travel. Persons who are not state employees, but who are  
performing substantial and necessary services to the state which  
have been directed or approved by the appropriate department

1 official, shall enjoy the protection of the sovereign immunity of  
2 the state to the same extent as a paid employee. Such persons may  
3 be reimbursed for expenses incurred during authorized official  
4 travel under these same statutory provisions; provided, it is  
5 indicated on the claim the person is not a state employee, a  
6 description of services performed is entered, and the agency head by  
7 approval of the claim certifies such services were substantial and  
8 necessary, and germane to the duties and functions of the  
9 reimbursing agency. Travel expenses incurred by a person during the  
10 course of seeking employment with a state agency, unless such travel  
11 is performed at the request of the employing agency, shall not be  
12 considered expenses incurred in performing substantial and necessary  
13 services to the state and shall not be reimbursed under the  
14 provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

15       B. The chief administrative officer of the Department of Public  
16 Safety, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Oklahoma  
17 State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, the Military  
18 Department of the State of Oklahoma, the Department of Corrections,  
19 the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, the Alcoholic  
20 Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, the Oklahoma Department of  
21 Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, the Oklahoma Department of  
22 Emergency Management, the State Fire Marshal, and the State  
23 Department of Health may arrange for and charge meals and lodging  
24 for a contingent of state personnel moved into an area for the

1 purpose of preserving the public health, safety, or welfare or for  
2 the protection of life or property. The cost for meals or lodging  
3 so charged shall not exceed the amount authorized in the State  
4 Travel Reimbursement Act. The chief administrative officer of each  
5 agency involved in such an operation shall require the vendor  
6 furnishing meals, lodging, or both meals and lodging to submit an  
7 itemized statement for payment. When a claim for lodging is made  
8 for a contingent of state personnel, individual members of the  
9 contingent may not submit a claim for lodging. When a claim for  
10 meals is made for a contingent of state personnel, individual  
11 members of the contingent may not submit a claim for meals.

12 C. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the Oklahoma Center for  
13 the Advancement of Science and Technology, and the Oklahoma  
14 Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry are hereby authorized  
15 to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food,  
16 lodging, meeting facility, and beverage expenses as may be necessary  
17 for sponsoring seminars and receptions relating to economic  
18 development and science and technology issues. Such expenses may be  
19 paid directly to the contracting agency or business establishment.  
20 The ~~Director~~ Chief Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Department of  
21 Commerce, the ~~President~~ Executive Director of the Oklahoma Center  
22 for the Advancement of Science and Technology, and the Commissioner  
23 of Agriculture shall each electronically provide a quarterly report  
24

1 of such expenditures to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
2 Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

3       D. The Native American Cultural and Educational Authority is  
4 hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the  
5 payment of food, lodging, and meeting facility expenses as may be  
6 necessary to pursue the promotion of fundraising, marketing, and  
7 development of Native American educational programs and cultural  
8 projects, or to sponsor luncheons, seminars, and receptions relating  
9 to Native American educational, cultural, museum, and economic  
10 development issues. Such expenses may be paid directly to the  
11 contracting agency or business establishment. The Executive  
12 Director of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority  
13 shall provide a monthly report of expenditures to the Native  
14 American Cultural and Educational Authority Board.

15       E. For the purposes of this section:

16       1. "State agency" means any constitutionally or statutorily  
17 created state board, commission, or department, including the  
18 Legislature and the ~~Courts~~ courts;

19       2. State agencies are authorized to enter into contracts and  
20 agreements for the payment of food and lodging expenses as may be  
21 necessary for employees or other persons who are performing  
22 substantial and necessary services to the state by attending  
23 official conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops, or training  
24 sessions or in the performance of their duties. Such expenses may

1 be paid directly to the contracting agency or business  
2 establishment, provided the meeting qualifies for overnight travel  
3 for the employees and the cost for food and lodging for each  
4 employee shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the  
5 State Travel Reimbursement Act;

6       3. State agencies are authorized to enter into contracts and  
7 agreements for the payment of conference registration expenses as  
8 may be necessary for employees or other persons who are performing  
9 substantial and necessary services to the state by attending  
10 official conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops, or training  
11 sessions. Such expenses may be paid directly to the contracting  
12 agency or business establishment; and

13       4. State agencies are authorized to enter into contracts and  
14 agreements for the payment of food and lodging expenses as may be  
15 necessary for employees attending an official course of instruction  
16 or training conducted or sponsored by any state agency. Expenses  
17 may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business  
18 establishment. The cost for food and lodging for each employee  
19 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
20 Travel Reimbursement Act.

21       F. State agencies are authorized to make direct purchases of  
22 commercial airline tickets for use by employees in approved out-of-  
23 state travel. Each claim or invoice submitted to the Director of  
24 the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for the payment of

1 the purchase shall bear the airline identifying ticket number, the  
2 name of the airline, total cost of each ticket purchased, class of  
3 accommodation, and name of the employee for whom the ticket was  
4 purchased and shall be filed on claim forms as prescribed by the  
5 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. The  
6 employee shall sign an affidavit stating that the employee used a  
7 direct purchase commercial airline ticket received for his or her  
8 approved out-of-state travel, or in lieu of the affidavit, the  
9 employee may file a travel claim in connection with said such  
10 airline flight.

11 G. 1. The Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise  
12 Services is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements  
13 for the payment of food, lodging, and other authorized expenses as  
14 may be necessary to host, conduct, sponsor, or participate in  
15 conferences, meetings, or training sessions. The Director may  
16 establish accounts as necessary for the collection and distribution  
17 of funds, including funds of sponsors and registration fees, related  
18 to such conferences, meetings, and training sessions. Expenses  
19 incurred may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business  
20 establishment.

21 2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
22 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel  
23 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
24 Travel Reimbursement Act.

1       H. 1. The Commissioner of ~~the Department of~~ Mental Health and  
2 Substance Abuse Services is hereby authorized to enter into  
3 contracts and agreements for the payment of food, lodging, and other  
4 authorized expenses as may be necessary to host, conduct, sponsor,  
5 or participate in conferences, meetings, or training sessions. The  
6 Commissioner may establish accounts as necessary for the collection  
7 and distribution of funds, including funds of sponsors and  
8 registration fees, related to such conferences, meetings, and  
9 training sessions. Any expenses incurred may be paid directly to  
10 the contracting agency or business establishment.

11       2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
12 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel  
13 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
14 Travel Reimbursement Act.

15       I. The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System is hereby authorized to  
16 enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of lodging as  
17 necessary for employees to carry out their duties in representing  
18 any client whom the System has been properly appointed to represent.  
19 Such expenses may be paid directly to the contracting agency or  
20 business establishment. The cost for lodging for each employee  
21 shall not exceed the daily rate as provided in the State Travel  
22 Reimbursement Act.

23       J. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is hereby  
24 authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of

1 food, lodging, and meeting facility, and beverage expenses as may be  
2 necessary for seminars and receptions relating to familiarization  
3 tours and tourism development. The expenses may be paid directly to  
4 the contracting agency or business establishment. The Executive  
5 Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department shall  
6 provide a monthly report of any such expenditures to the Oklahoma  
7 Tourism and Recreation Commission.

8       K. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is hereby  
9 authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of  
10 exhibitor fees and display space charges at expositions to promote  
11 the Department's recreational facilities and the tourism and  
12 recreation industry. The expenses may be paid directly to the  
13 contracting agency or business establishment; provided, that no  
14 payment shall be made prior to the event unless it conveys a  
15 property right to the state for future availability and use.

16       L. 1. The Oklahoma Highway Safety Office of the Department of  
17 Public Safety is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and  
18 agreements for the payment of food, lodging, and other authorized  
19 expenses as may be necessary to host, conduct, sponsor, or  
20 participate in highway-safety-related conferences, workshops,  
21 seminars, meetings, or training sessions. The payments shall be for  
22 all persons in attendance, including, but not limited to, employees  
23 of political subdivisions or employees of the state or federal  
24 government. For purposes specified in this paragraph, only federal

1 highway safety funds may be used in accordance with federal  
2 guidelines and regulations, and no appropriated state funds shall be  
3 used.

4       2. The cost of food for persons attending any highway safety  
5 conferences, workshops, seminars, meetings, and training sessions  
6 that do not require overnight travel shall not exceed the total  
7 daily rate as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

8       M. 1. The Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
9 Investigation is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and  
10 agreements for the payment of food, lodging, and other authorized  
11 expenses as may be necessary to host, conduct, sponsor, or  
12 participate in any conference, meeting, training session, or  
13 initiative to promote the mission and purposes of the Bureau. The  
14 payments may be for all persons in attendance, including, but not  
15 limited to, employees of political subdivisions or employees of the  
16 state or federal government.

17       2. The cost of food for persons that do not require overnight  
18 travel shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the  
19 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

20       N. The Oklahoma Homeland Security Director is hereby authorized  
21 to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food,  
22 lodging, and other authorized expenses as may be necessary to host,  
23 conduct, sponsor, or participate in homeland-security-related  
24 conferences, meetings, workshops, seminars, exercises, or training

1 sessions. The expenses may be paid directly to the contracting  
2 agency or business establishment.

3       O. The State Department of Education is hereby authorized to  
4 enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food,  
5 lodging, and other authorized expenses as may be necessary to host,  
6 conduct, sponsor, or participate in conferences, meetings, or  
7 training sessions. The State Department of Education may establish  
8 accounts as necessary for the collection and distribution of funds,  
9 including funds of sponsors and registration fees, related to such  
10 conferences, meetings, and training sessions. Any expenses incurred  
11 may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business  
12 establishment.

13       P. 1. The Insurance Commissioner of the Insurance Department  
14 ~~of the State of Oklahoma~~ is hereby authorized to enter into  
15 contracts and agreements for the payment of food, lodging, and other  
16 authorized expenses as may be necessary to host, conduct, sponsor,  
17 or participate in conferences, meetings, or training sessions. The  
18 Commissioner may establish accounts as necessary for the collection  
19 and distribution of funds, including funds of sponsors and  
20 registration fees, related to such conferences, meetings, and  
21 training sessions. Any expenses incurred may be paid directly to  
22 the contracting agency or business establishment.

23       2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
24 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel

1 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
2 Travel Reimbursement Act.

3 Q. 1. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education ~~is are~~  
4 hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the  
5 payment of food, lodging, and other authorized expenses as may be  
6 necessary to host, conduct, sponsor, or participate in conferences,  
7 meetings, or training sessions. The State Regents ~~for Higher~~  
8 ~~Education~~ may establish accounts as necessary for the collection and  
9 distribution of funds, including funds of sponsors and registration  
10 fees, related to such conferences, meetings, and training sessions.  
11 Any expenses incurred may be paid directly to the contracting agency  
12 or business establishment.

13 2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
14 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel  
15 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
16 Travel Reimbursement Act.

17 R. 1. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability is  
18 hereby authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the  
19 payment of food, lodging, and other authorized expenses as may be  
20 necessary to host, conduct, sponsor, or participate in conferences,  
21 meetings, or training sessions. The Office of Educational Quality  
22 and Accountability may establish accounts as necessary for the  
23 collection and distribution of funds, including funds of sponsors  
24 and registration fees, related to such conferences, meetings, and

1 training sessions. Any expenses incurred may be paid directly to  
2 the contracting agency or business establishment.

3 2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
4 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel  
5 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
6 Travel Reimbursement Act.

7 S. 1. The Statewide Charter School Board is hereby authorized  
8 to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of food,  
9 lodging, and other authorized expenses as may be necessary to host,  
10 conduct, sponsor, or participate in conferences, meetings, or  
11 training sessions. The Statewide Charter School Board may establish  
12 accounts as necessary for the collection and distribution of funds  
13 including funds of sponsors and registration fees related to such  
14 conferences, meetings, and training sessions. Any expenses incurred  
15 may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business  
16 establishment.

17 2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
18 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel  
19 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
20 Travel Reimbursement Act.

21 T. 1. The Oklahoma Department of Securities is hereby  
22 authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of  
23 food, lodging, meeting facility, facilitator fees and travel  
24 expenses, exhibitor fees, and other authorized expenses as may be

1 necessary to host, conduct, sponsor, or participate in conferences,  
2 meetings, training sessions, or initiatives promoting or otherwise  
3 relating to investor education. The Oklahoma Department of  
4 Securities may establish accounts as necessary for the collection  
5 and distribution of funds, including funds of sponsors and  
6 registration fees, related to such conferences, meetings, training  
7 sessions, or initiatives. The payments may be for all persons in  
8 attendance, including, but not limited to, employees of the state or  
9 federal government or employees of political subdivisions of the  
10 state, including employees of boards of public education. Expenses  
11 incurred may be paid directly to the contracting agency or business  
12 establishment.

13       2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
14 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel  
15 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
16 Travel Reimbursement Act.

17       3. The Oklahoma Department of Securities is hereby authorized  
18 to pay stipends to teachers participating in the investor education  
19 program and monetary achievement awards to select participating  
20 students. No appropriated state funds shall be used.

21       T. U. 1. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is hereby  
22 authorized to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of  
23 food, lodging, meeting facility, beverage, and other authorized  
24 expenses as may be necessary to host, conduct, sponsor, or

1 participate in seminars, receptions, conferences, meetings, or  
2 training sessions related to the support of veterans and the  
3 development of veterans' services. Expenses incurred may be paid  
4 directly to the contracting agency or business establishment. The  
5 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs  
6 shall provide a monthly report of any such expenditures to the  
7 Oklahoma Veterans Commission.

8 2. The cost of food for persons attending any conferences,  
9 meetings, and training sessions that do not require overnight travel  
10 shall not exceed the total daily rate as provided in the State  
11 Travel Reimbursement Act.

12 U. V. Whenever possible it shall be the policy of each state  
13 agency to prepay airline fares and lodging expenses using a purchase  
14 card issued to the agency. This policy shall apply to instances  
15 where employees of the agency are traveling on behalf of state  
16 government.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

18 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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