

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1774

By: McCall and Hilbert of the
House

3 and

4 Pugh of the Senate
5
6

7 An Act relating to roads and bridges; creating the
8 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission Act; stating
9 legislative intent; providing for membership of the
10 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission; providing
11 for ex officio members; establishing certain meeting
12 and quorum criteria; providing for administrative
13 support; stating certain powers and duties of the
14 Commission; providing for the acceptance of certain
15 gifts, grants and funding; prohibiting compensation
16 or reimbursement related to Commission service;
17 providing for termination of the Commission;
18 providing for codification; and providing an
19 effective date.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4020 of Title 69, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4020.1 of Title 69, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

1 The study, preservation and maintenance of Route-66-related
2 resources has been a public/private partnership in Oklahoma for
3 decades. Government agencies, private organizations and individual
4 citizens have played critical roles in these efforts, and the
5 Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission shall seek input from these
6 partners and the general public as it develops plans for the
7 celebration and encourages their participation.

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

19 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4020.2 of Title 69, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

3 1. Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House
4 of Representatives;

5 2. Two members shall be appointed by the President of the
6 Senate;

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

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

10 a. the Governor or his or her designee,

11 b. the Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as
12 chairperson, or his or her designee,

13 c. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of
14 Transportation or his or her designee,

15 d. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical
16 Society or his or her designee,

17 e. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of
18 Commerce or his or her designee,

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

21 g. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council or
22 his or her designee,

23 h. the President of the Route 66 Alliance or his or her
24 designee,

- 1 i. the President of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association or
- 2 his or her designee,
- 3 j. the Executive Director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.,
- 4 or his or her designee,
- 5 k. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Museums
- 6 Association or his or her designee,
- 7 l. the Executive Director of Oklahoma Humanities or his
- 8 or her designee,
- 9 m. the Director of the Oklahoma Municipal League or his
- 10 or her designee, and
- 11 n. the President of the Oklahoma State Chamber of
- 12 Commerce or his or her designee.

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

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

22 C. The Commission shall:

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1 1. Plan and sponsor official Route 66 Centennial events,
2 programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the Route 66
3 Centennial;

4 2. Encourage the development of programs designed to involve
5 all citizens in activities that commemorate the Route 66 Centennial
6 events; and

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

10 D. The Commission may accept monetary gifts, grants or
11 appropriations from any public or private source to be held in a
12 nonappropriated revolving fund authorized for the Oklahoma
13 Historical Society and expended solely for the use of the Commission
14 in performing the Commission's powers and duties under this act.
15 The Commission may also accept in-kind gifts.

16 E. Each member of the Commission shall serve without
17 compensation or reimbursement for travel related to Commission
18 duties, aside from the compensation he or she might otherwise
19 receive as authorized by law.

20 F. The Commission shall be dissolved on June 30, 2027, and any
21 assets remaining in the Commission's trust fund shall be deposited
22 into the state's General Revenue Fund. A final report on the
23 activities of the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission shall be
24 delivered to the Governor no later than June 30, 2027.

