

# An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1774

By: McCall, Hilbert, Wallace  
and West (Josh) of the  
House

and

Pugh, Bergstrom and Dossett  
of the Senate

An Act relating to roads and bridges; creating the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission Act; stating legislative intent; providing for membership of the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission; providing for ex officio members; establishing certain meeting and quorum criteria; providing for administrative support; stating certain powers and duties of the Commission; providing for the acceptance of certain gifts, grants and funding; prohibiting compensation or reimbursement related to Commission service; providing for termination of the Commission; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission Act

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

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

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:

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

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

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

The significance of the Oklahoma stretch of Route 66 is demonstrated through its status as both a state and a National Scenic Byway and as a segment of the Route 66 National Historic Trail (legislation for NHT designation is pending in the U.S. Congress). Dozens of Oklahoma properties are related to Route 66, such as roadbed segments, bridges, commercial buildings, service stations and tourist attractions, and are listed in the National

Register of Historic Places. The significance of the highway is further recognized through the National Trust for Historic Preservation's selection of the entire length of the highway as one of its National Treasures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a. the Governor or his or her designee,
- b. the Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as chairperson, or his or her designee,
- c. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation or his or her designee,
- d. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society or his or her designee,
- e. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce or his or her designee,
- f. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department or his or her designee,
- g. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council or his or her designee,

- h. the President of the Route 66 Alliance or his or her designee,
- i. the President of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association or his or her designee,
- j. the Executive Director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., 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
- 3. Make available to the public, to the best of the Commission's ability, information on Route 66 Centennial events happening throughout the State of Oklahoma.

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

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

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

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

Passed the House of Representatives the 12th day of March, 2019.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 24th day of April, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_