

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 SENATE BILL 1056

By: Fry

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Electronic Toll  
8 Collection Act; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Section 11-  
9 1401.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 129,  
10 O.S.L. 2015 (47 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 11-1401.2),  
11 which relates to toll collection records; authorizing  
12 certain allowances; and providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 11-1401.2,  
15 as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 129, O.S.L. 2015 (47 O.S.  
16 Supp. 2015, Section 11-1401.2), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 11-1401.2. A. For purposes of this section:

18 1. "Authority" means the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority;

19 2. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Tax Commission;

20 3. "Electronic toll collection system" means a system of  
21 collecting tolls or charges which is capable of charging an account  
22 holder the appropriate toll or charge by transmission of information  
23 from an electronic device on a motor vehicle to the toll lane, which  
24 information is used to charge the account the appropriate toll or  
charge;

1 4. "Owner" means any person, corporation, partnership, firm,  
2 agency, association, or organization who, at the time of the  
3 violation and with respect to the vehicle identified in the notice  
4 of toll evasion violation:

5 a. is the beneficial or equitable owner of the vehicle,

6 b. has title to the vehicle,

7 c. is the registrant or coregistrant of the vehicle which  
8 is registered with the Oklahoma Tax Commission or  
9 similar registering agency of any other state,  
10 territory, district, province, nation or other  
11 jurisdiction,

12 d. subject to the liability limitations set forth in  
13 paragraph 12 of subsection B of this section, uses the  
14 vehicle in its vehicle renting and/or leasing  
15 businesses, or

16 e. is a person entitled to the use and possession of a  
17 vehicle subject to a security interest in another  
18 person;

19 5. "Photo-monitoring system" means a vehicle sensor installed  
20 to work in conjunction with a toll collection facility which  
21 automatically produces one or more photographs, one or more  
22 microphotographs, a videotape or other recorded images of each  
23 vehicle at the time it is used or operated on the turnpikes under  
24 the Authority's jurisdiction;

1       6. "Toll collection regulations" means those rules and  
2 regulations of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority or statutes providing  
3 for and requiring the payment of tolls and/or charges prescribed by  
4 the Authority for the use of turnpikes under its jurisdiction or  
5 those rules and regulations of the Authority or statutes making it  
6 unlawful to refuse to pay or to evade or to attempt to evade the  
7 payment of all or part of any toll and/or charge for the use of  
8 turnpikes under the jurisdiction of the Authority;

9       7. "Toll evasion violation" means a failure to comply with the  
10 Authority's toll collection regulations, including the failure to  
11 pay an invoice submitted by the Authority via its video toll  
12 collection system;

13       8. "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by which a person  
14 or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except  
15 devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks; and

16       9. "Video toll collection system" means a photo-monitoring  
17 system used to charge and collect tolls from owners of vehicles  
18 imaged using the turnpike system. The owner of a vehicle imaged by  
19 the photo-monitoring system may or may not be an Authority account  
20 holder.

21       B. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall  
22 be imposed monetary liability on the owner of a vehicle for failure  
23 of an operator thereof to comply with the toll collection  
24

1 regulations of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority in accordance with  
2 the provisions of this section.

3 2. The owner of a vehicle shall be liable for a civil penalty  
4 imposed pursuant to this section if the vehicle was used or operated  
5 with the permission of the owner, express or implied, in violation  
6 of the toll collection regulations, and such violation is evidence  
7 by information obtained from a photo-monitoring system. However, no  
8 owner of a vehicle shall be liable for a penalty imposed pursuant to  
9 this section where the operator of the vehicle has been convicted of  
10 a violation of toll collection regulations for the same incident.

11 3. A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by an agent of the  
12 Authority, or facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of  
13 photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded images  
14 produced by a photo-monitoring system shall be prima facie evidence  
15 of the facts contained therein and shall be admissible in any  
16 proceeding charging a violation of toll collection regulations. The  
17 photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded images  
18 evidencing such a violation shall be available for inspection and  
19 admission into evidence in any proceeding to adjudicate the  
20 liability for the violation. Each photo-monitoring system shall be  
21 checked bimonthly for accuracy, and shall be maintained, adjusted or  
22 replaced if necessary to ensure the systems are operating properly.

23 4. An owner found liable for a violation of toll collection  
24 regulations pursuant to this section shall be liable for a monetary

1 penalty of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each violation.  
2 Liability for this monetary penalty does not abrogate an owner's  
3 obligation to pay toll charges associated with the violation, and  
4 the Authority may pursue collection of such unpaid toll charges  
5 pursuant to this section.

6 5. An imposition of liability pursuant to this section shall be  
7 based upon a preponderance of evidence as submitted. An imposition  
8 of liability pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a  
9 conviction as an operator and shall not be made part of the motor  
10 vehicle operating record of the person upon whom such liability is  
11 imposed nor shall it be used for insurance purposes in the provision  
12 of motor vehicle insurance coverage.

13 6. a. A notice of toll evasion violation shall be sent by  
14 regular first-class mail to each person alleged to be  
15 liable as an owner for a violation of toll collection  
16 regulations. The notice shall be mailed no later than  
17 forty-five (45) days after the alleged violation. A  
18 manual or automatic record of mailing prepared in the  
19 ordinary course of business shall be prima facie  
20 evidence of the receipt of the notice.

21 b. A notice of toll evasion violation shall contain the  
22 name and address of the person alleged to be liable as  
23 an owner for a violation of toll collection  
24 regulations pursuant to this section, the registration

1 or the license tag number of the vehicle involved in  
2 the violation, the location where the photo-monitoring  
3 system recorded the vehicle's image, the date and time  
4 of the image, the identification number of the photo-  
5 monitoring system which recorded the image or other  
6 document locator number and the nature of the  
7 violation.

8 c. Notice of toll evasion violation shall be prepared and  
9 mailed by the Authority or its agents and shall  
10 contain information advising the person of the  
11 applicable monetary penalty and method of payment  
12 thereof and the manner and the time in which the  
13 person may contest the liability alleged in the  
14 notice. The notice of toll evasion violation shall  
15 contain, or be accompanied with, an affidavit of  
16 nonliability and information of what constitutes  
17 nonliability, information as to the effect of  
18 executing the affidavit and instructions for returning  
19 the affidavit to the Authority and shall also contain  
20 a warning to advise the persons charged that failure  
21 to contest in the manner and time provided shall be  
22 deemed an admission of liability and that the penalty  
23 shall be imposed and may be collected as authorized by  
24 law. In addition to the notice required by

1           subparagraph a of this paragraph, the Authority may  
2           elect to send a subsequent notice of toll evasion  
3           violation by certified mail. Such notice shall  
4           contain a statement to the registered owner that,  
5           unless the registered owner pays the toll evasion  
6           penalty or contests the notice within twenty-one (21)  
7           days after receipt of the certified mail notice of  
8           toll evasion violation or completes and files the  
9           affidavit of nonliability, the renewal of the vehicle  
10          registration shall be contingent upon compliance with  
11          the notice of toll evasion violation.

12          d.    If the toll evasion penalty is received by the  
13                Authority and there is no contest as to that toll  
14                evasion violation, the proceedings under this section  
15                shall terminate.

16          e.    If the registered owner fails to pay the toll evasion  
17                penalty as required in this section, or fails to  
18                contest the notice of toll evasion violation issued  
19                pursuant to subparagraph c of this paragraph as  
20                provided in subparagraph a of paragraph 7 of this  
21                subsection, the registered owner shall be deemed  
22                liable for the violation by operation of law. The  
23                toll evasion penalty and any administrative fees or  
24                charges shall be considered a debt due and owing the

1 Authority by the registered owner and the Authority  
2 may proceed to collect such penalty, fees or charges  
3 under paragraph 9 of this subsection.

4 7. a. Within twenty-one (21) days after receipt of a notice  
5 of toll evasion violation a person may contest a  
6 notice of toll evasion violation. In that case, the  
7 Authority shall do the following:

8 (1) the Authority shall investigate the circumstances  
9 of the notice with respect to the contestant's  
10 written explanation of reasons for contesting the  
11 toll evasion violation. If, based upon the  
12 results of the investigation, the Authority is  
13 satisfied that the violation did not occur or  
14 that the registered owner was not responsible for  
15 the violation, the Authority shall maintain an  
16 adequate record of the findings of the  
17 investigation. Within thirty (30) days of  
18 receipt of a notice of contest the Authority  
19 shall complete such investigation and mail the  
20 results of the investigation to the person who  
21 contested the notice of toll evasion violation,  
22 and

23 (2) if the person contesting a notice of toll evasion  
24 violation is not satisfied with the results of



1 the investigation provided for in division (1) of  
2 this subparagraph, the person may, within fifteen  
3 (15) days of the mailing of the results of the  
4 investigation, deposit the amount of the toll  
5 evasion penalty and request an administrative  
6 review. An administrative review shall be held  
7 within ninety (90) calendar days following the  
8 receipt of a request for an administrative  
9 review, excluding any continuance time. The  
10 person requesting the review may request and  
11 shall be allowed one continuance, not to exceed  
12 twenty-one (21) calendar days.

13 b. The administrative review procedure shall consist of  
14 the following:

15 (1) the person requesting an administrative review  
16 shall indicate to the Authority his or her  
17 election for a review by mail or personal  
18 conference and may provide materials in support  
19 of the contest of the results of the  
20 investigation,

21 (2) upon ten (10) days' written notice mailed to the  
22 contestant, the administrative review shall be  
23 conducted before an examiner designated to  
24 conduct review by the Authority's governing body

1 or Director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority.  
2 In addition to any other requirements of  
3 employment, an examiner shall demonstrate those  
4 qualifications, training, and objectivity  
5 prescribed by the Authority's governing body or  
6 Director as are necessary and which are  
7 consistent with the duties and responsibilities  
8 set forth in this section and Section 11-1401.1  
9 et seq. of this title,

10 (3) the officer or person authorized to issue a  
11 notice of toll evasion violation shall be  
12 required to participate in an administrative  
13 review. The Authority shall not be required to  
14 produce any evidence other than the notice of  
15 toll evasion violation or copy thereof, a  
16 photograph of the rear of the vehicle,  
17 information received from the Commission  
18 identifying the registered owner of the vehicle,  
19 and a notarized statement from the person  
20 reporting the violations. The documentation in  
21 proper form shall be considered prima facie  
22 evidence of the violation, and

23 (4) the review shall be conducted in accordance with  
24 paragraph 5 of this subsection and in accordance

1 with the written procedure established by the  
2 Authority which shall ensure fair and impartial  
3 review of contested toll evasion violations. The  
4 examiner's final decision shall be in writing and  
5 shall be delivered personally or by registered  
6 mail to the contestant within ten (10) days of  
7 the review. A manual or automatic record of  
8 mailing prepared in the ordinary course of  
9 business shall be prima facie evidence of the  
10 receipt of such decision.

11 8. a. Within twenty (20) days after receipt of the final  
12 decision described in division (4) of subparagraph b  
13 of paragraph 7 of this subsection, the contestant may  
14 seek review by filing an appeal to the district court  
15 having jurisdiction in the county in which the  
16 contestant lives, where the same shall be heard on the  
17 record. A copy of the notice of appeal shall be  
18 served in person or by first-class mail upon the  
19 Authority by the contestants. For purposes of  
20 computing the twenty-day period, the Code of Civil  
21 Procedure, Section 2006 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma  
22 Statutes, shall be applicable.

23 b. The conduct of the hearing on appeal under this  
24 section is a subordinate judicial duty which may be

1 performed by referees, masters or other subordinate  
2 judicial officials at the direction of the district  
3 court.

4 c. If no notice of appeal of the Authority's decision is  
5 filed within the period set forth in subparagraph a of  
6 this paragraph, the examiner's decision shall be  
7 deemed final.

8 9. Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs 10 and 11 of this  
9 subsection, the Authority shall proceed under one or more of the  
10 following options to collect an unpaid toll evasion penalty:

11 a. the Authority may file an itemization of unpaid toll  
12 evasion penalties and administrative and service fees  
13 with the Commission for collection at the time of  
14 registration of the vehicle pursuant to paragraph 17  
15 of this subsection, or

16 b. the Authority may contract with a collection agency to  
17 collect unpaid toll evasion penalties, fees, and  
18 charges.

19 10. The Authority shall not file a civil judgment with the  
20 district court relating to a toll evasion violation which has been  
21 filed with the Commission unless the Authority has determined that  
22 the registration of the vehicle has not been renewed for sixty (60)  
23 days beyond the renewal date and the notice has not been mailed by  
24 the Commission pursuant to paragraph 17 of this subsection.

1           11. If an owner receives a notice of toll evasion violation  
2 pursuant to this paragraph for any time period during which the  
3 vehicle was reported to the police department as having been stolen,  
4 it shall be a valid defense to an allegation of liability for a  
5 violation of toll collection regulations that the vehicle had been  
6 reported to the police as stolen prior to the time the violation  
7 occurred and had not been recovered by such time. If an owner  
8 receives a notice of toll evasion violation pursuant to this  
9 paragraph for any time period during which the vehicle was stolen,  
10 but not yet reported to the police as having been stolen, it shall  
11 be a valid defense to an allegation of liability for a violation of  
12 toll collection regulations pursuant to this paragraph that the  
13 vehicle was reported as stolen within two (2) hours after the  
14 discovery of the theft by the owner. For purposes of asserting the  
15 defense provided by this subsection it shall be sufficient that a  
16 certified copy of the police report of the stolen vehicle be sent by  
17 first-class mail to the Authority and the district court having  
18 jurisdiction.

19           12. An owner of a vehicle to which a notice of toll evasion  
20 violation was issued pursuant to paragraph 6 of this subsection  
21 shall not be liable for the violation of the toll collection  
22 regulations provided that the owner sends to the Authority the  
23 affidavit of nonliability described in paragraph 6 of this  
24 subsection, within twenty-one (21) days after receiving the original

1 notice of toll evasion violation. Failure to send such information  
2 within the time period shall render the owner liable for the penalty  
3 prescribed by this section. If the owner complies with the  
4 provisions of this subsection, the operator of the vehicle on the  
5 date of the violation shall be subject to liability for the  
6 violation of toll collection regulations, provided that the  
7 Authority mails a notice of toll evasion violation to the operator  
8 within ten (10) days after receipt of such information.

9 13. In connection with the preparation and mailing of a notice  
10 of toll evasion violation, the Authority shall ensure adequate and  
11 timely notice to all video toll collection system and electronic  
12 toll collection system account holders to inform them when their  
13 accounts are delinquent. An owner who is an account holder under  
14 the video toll collection system or electronic toll collection  
15 system shall not be found liable for a violation of this section  
16 unless the Authority has first sent a notice of delinquency to the  
17 account holder and the account holder was in fact delinquent at the  
18 time of the violation.

19 14. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the  
20 liability of an operator of a vehicle for any violation of toll  
21 collection laws or regulations.

22 15. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all  
23 photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded images  
24 prepared pursuant to this section shall be for the exclusive use of

1 the Authority in the discharge of its duties under this section and  
2 shall not be open to the public nor be used in any court in any  
3 action or proceeding pending therein unless the action or proceeding  
4 relates to:

5 a. the imposition of or indemnification for liability  
6 pursuant to this section, or

7 b. an investigation or prosecution for a criminal  
8 violation of the laws of the State of Oklahoma. Such  
9 records shall be available to a law enforcement  
10 officer or law enforcement agency upon request for law  
11 enforcement purposes related to an investigation or  
12 prosecution of a criminal violation of the laws of the  
13 State of Oklahoma.

14 16. The Authority shall not sell, distribute or make available  
15 in any way, the names and addresses of video toll collection system  
16 and electronic toll collection system account holders or Authority  
17 patrons, without the consent of the account holders or patrons, to  
18 any entity that will use the information for any commercial purpose.

19 ~~16.~~

20 17. a. Except as provided in subparagraph c of this  
21 paragraph, the Commission shall refuse to renew the  
22 registration of any vehicle if the registered owner or  
23 lessee has been mailed by certified mail a notice of  
24 toll evasion violation as provided in subparagraph c

1 of paragraph 6 of this subsection, the Authority has  
2 transmitted to the Commission an itemization of unpaid  
3 toll evasion penalties, including administrative fees,  
4 pursuant to paragraph 9 of this subsection, and the  
5 toll evasion penalty and administrative fee have not  
6 been paid pursuant to paragraph 8 of this subsection,  
7 unless the full amount of all outstanding toll evasion  
8 penalties and administrative fees, as shown by records  
9 of the Commission are paid to the Commission at the  
10 time of application for renewal.

11 b. The Authority shall issue a notice of disposition of  
12 toll evasion violation to a lessor, if the lessor  
13 provides the Authority with the name, address, and  
14 driver's license number of the lessee at the time of  
15 the occurrence of the toll evasion violation.

16 c. The Commission shall renew the registration of any  
17 vehicle if the applicant provides the Commission with  
18 the notice of disposition of toll evasion violation  
19 issued pursuant to subparagraph b of this paragraph  
20 for clearing all outstanding toll evasion penalties,  
21 fees and assessments, as shown by the records of the  
22 Commission, and the applicant has met all other  
23 requirements for registration.  
24



1       ~~17.~~ 18. The Commission shall include on each vehicle  
2 registration renewal notice issued for use at the time of renewal,  
3 or on an accompanying document, an itemization of unpaid toll  
4 evasion penalties, fees and assessments, showing the amount thereof  
5 and the date of toll evasion relating thereto, which the registered  
6 owner or lessee is required to pay pursuant to paragraph 16 of this  
7 subsection.

8       ~~18.~~

9       19. a. Except as provided in subparagraph b of this  
10 paragraph, the Commission shall remit all toll evasion  
11 penalties, fees and assessments collected, after  
12 deducting the administrative fee authorized by  
13 paragraph 19 of this subsection, for each notice of  
14 toll evasion violation for which toll evasion  
15 penalties, fees and assessments have been collected  
16 pursuant to paragraph 16 of this subsection, to the  
17 Authority. Within forty-five (45) days from the time  
18 penalties, fees and assessments are paid to the  
19 Commission, the Commission shall inform the Authority  
20 which of its notices of toll evasion violation have  
21 been collected.

22       b. For each notice of toll evasion violation for which  
23 toll evasion penalties, fees and assessments have been  
24 collected by the Commission pursuant to paragraph 16

1 of this subsection, the Authority is due an amount  
2 equal to the sum of the unpaid toll, administrative  
3 fees, other costs incurred by the Authority that are  
4 related to toll evasion, process service fees, and  
5 fees and collection costs related to civil debt  
6 collection. After deducting the Commission's  
7 administrative fee authorized by paragraph 19 of this  
8 subsection, the Commission shall promptly pay to the  
9 Authority the amounts due the Authority for unpaid  
10 tolls, administrative fees, other costs incurred by  
11 the Authority that are related to toll evasion,  
12 process service fees, and fees and collection costs  
13 related to civil debt collection.

14 ~~19.~~ 20. The Commission shall assess a fee for the recording of  
15 the notice of toll evasion violation, which is given to the  
16 Commission pursuant to paragraph 9 of this subsection, in an amount,  
17 as determined by the Commission, that is sufficient to provide a  
18 total amount equal to at least its actual costs of administering  
19 paragraphs 16, 17 and 20 of this subsection.

20 ~~20.~~ 21. Whenever a vehicle is transferred or not renewed for  
21 two renewal periods and the former registered owner or lessee of the  
22 vehicle owes a toll evasion penalty and administrative fees for a  
23 notice of toll evasion violation filed with the Commission pursuant  
24 to paragraph 9 of this subsection, the Commission shall notify the

1 Authority of that fact and is not required thereafter to attempt  
2 collection of the toll evasion penalty and administrative fees.

3 This legislation shall not be construed to affect in any way the  
4 power which the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority possesses to establish  
5 tolls and other charges in connection with their turnpike  
6 facilities, including the authority to establish a one-way toll  
7 collection system for any of its facilities or a toll discount  
8 structure for certain classes of patrons using any of its  
9 facilities.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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