



OFFICE OF

No. HB 1922

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

May 31, 2013

TIME SIGNED: 2:00pm

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST SESSION OF THE
FIFTY FOURTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 1922:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED House Bill 1922.

House Bill 1922 allows the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission ("OSRC") to assess administrative fines ranging from \$50 to \$500 for violations of the Scenic Rivers Act such as littering. Currently, the OSRC enforces violations of the Act through the district attorney in district court, so assessed fines are retained by the district court. This legislation would shift these duties to the OSRC Board of Commissioners permitting them to initiate and prosecute administrative, civil, or criminal actions against those who violate the Scenic Rivers Act. The Board would then be allowed to appoint an administrative law judge to conduct hearings regarding alleged violations. Lastly, the legislation would allow the OSRC to collect all penalties, fees, and fines related to violations of the Act.

While I am supportive of preserving this state's scenic river areas, this goal is currently being accomplished through criminal and civil enforcement against those who violate the Scenic Rivers Act. This enforcement mechanism is already available to the OSRC. The Oklahoma Legislature has clearly stated that because certain areas in the state possess such unique natural scenic beauty, water conservation, fish, wildlife and outdoor recreational values which benefit the citizens of the state, it has adopted a policy to preserve these areas for the benefit of the people of Oklahoma. The primary purpose of the Scenic Rivers Act is to encourage the preservation of areas designated as "scenic river areas".

One of my focuses since taking office has been to streamline government and to create a more efficient and accountable state government. House Bill 1922 is duplicative, unnecessarily expands government and creates more bureaucratic red-tape. This legislation is not consistent with my commitment to reducing the size and cost of state government.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

RECEIVED

MAY 31 2013

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

3:50
Jm

By Callista H. Hauck

Date/Time 5/31/13 3:45pm