



OFFICE OF

No. SB 479

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

April 10, 20 15

TIME SIGNED: 10:30 AM

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE
FIRST SESSION OF THE
FIFTY FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 479:

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 Senate Bill 479.

Senate Bill 479 (Bill) establishes a process through which the Legislature may formally request—in the form of a legislative resolution—information from executive agencies regarding the “legal authority for a specific facet of operations of the agency.” The agency head must respond to the resolution within ten (10) days of receipt, or could face removal from his or her position.

This Bill is unnecessary, and lacks the spirit of collaboration that must exist if government is to act efficiently and effectively. It seeks to replace more informal, but highly effective, oversight, with an unnecessarily complicated administrative process.

First, this Bill is unnecessary because it merely restates what is already a clear and inviolable tenet of constitutional law: namely, agencies have only those powers that have been delegated to them by the Oklahoma Constitution and Statutes. Accordingly, each and every official act of an agency must already be encompassed within and supported by the legal authority granted it by the Legislature or the Constitution.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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APR 10 2015

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

AC @ 2:15 pm



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Second, the Bill imposes a formal and bureaucratic process to address perceived agency overreach, where a simple, efficient, and time-tested solution already exists. Certainly, agency heads are expected to respond thoroughly and rapidly to all legislative inquiries, regardless of whether those inquiries are verbal, written, or stated in a resolution; to do otherwise would be to invite disciplinary action from either the executive branch or the Legislature, which body has (as is described above) significant control over agencies via rulemaking and legislation.

We do not need another redundant law that creates more bureaucracy. Oklahoma expects and deserves a government that works together cooperatively and without unnecessary red tape to advance the quality of life and interests of its people.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

By D. North

Date/Time 4-10-15 3:05pm