

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations
2015 Performance Report
Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

To protect the public's welfare and interest through the enforcement of the laws and regulations pertaining to alcoholic beverages, charity gaming, and youth access to tobacco products.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

A Keith Burt, Director,
Oklahoma ABLE Commission
3812 N Santa Fe, Suite 200,
Oklahoma City, OK 73118;
kburt@able.ok.gov;
405-522-3048.

GOVERNANCE:

The Commission is headed by an appointee (the Director) of the independent board. The independent board consists of seven members who are appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. Five members represent the Lay Citizenry at-large. The remaining two are required to possess experience in law enforcement. Members are appointed for terms of five years. The State Constitution directs that no more than four of the Commission members shall be from the same political party and no more than two of the members shall be from the same federal congressional district. In addition, the Constitution prohibits any Commission member from holding any alcoholic beverage license or having any interest in the manufacture, sale, distribution, or transportation of alcoholic beverages. These members are: Bryan Close (Chairman), Harry "trey" Kouri III (Vice Chairman), Devin Graves (Member), James Maisano (Member), Joseph Forrest (Member), Robert Heidlage (Member), and Clarence Warner (Member).

The board does not have any committees or subgroups.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

There is no formal attendance policy; however, board meetings are very well attended by all current commissioners. We are required to have a Commission meeting each month and a quorum must exist.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Please provide a listing of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency since July 1, 2014. Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that prompted the

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modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden.

We continue to work with the state's Chief Information Officer on Information Technology (IT) modernization and consolidation. We have participated in various forums to examine constitutional changes in Oklahoma's liquor laws.

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

The agency has been very frugal with our budget and has chosen not to replace vacant positions whenever possible.

Attrition has helped the agency control past and upcoming budget cuts. Our current manpower stands at eighteen ABLE agents, thirteen administrative positions and eight contract employees (four inspectors and four office workers).

A good example of how we have scaled back is to demonstrate our replacement of retiring employees. Since 2010, ten ABLE agents have retired and three more have moved to higher paying jobs. The agency has hired six to replace thirteen. This year we have had two administrative employees retire and two others take other employment. The agency replaced only one. IT consolidation continues and the agency is losing the last IT employee and replacing him with help desk assistance. The agency has reassigned his duties to existing staff.

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere?

We have a small but focused work force that collects a surplus each year for the General Revenue Fund. We are specialized in liquor laws, prevention of youth access to tobacco and charity games enforcement with only 31 FTE in our entire agency. Other law enforcement agencies such as local police departments, sheriff's offices, and state police enforce liquor and tobacco laws, so there is occasional overlapping.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? In other states? Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency?

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Enforcement as well as revenue collections could be outsourced to other law enforcement and tax collecting agencies; however, this is not likely to provide savings to Oklahomans, fiscally or regarding public safety.