

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2015-16 Performance Report

Secretary of State

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

To maintain official records of the state in an orderly, accurate, and efficient manner, to provide appropriate and positive interaction with foreign dignitaries that visit Oklahoma, and ensure the office filing's by the private sector are handled in a way that allows for the free flow of commerce.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Secretary of State Chris Benge , Chris.Benge@sos.ok.gov phone# 521-6434 fax# 521-2031

GOVERNANCE:

Secretary of State Chris Benge is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Secretary of State Chris Benge reports to the Governor.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

The SOS has been directed to distribute the Oklahoma Statutes and the annual Oklahoma Statutes Supplement, and annual Oklahoma Session Laws. Discussions are taking place to identify actual need for printed volumes of the books and, as time goes by, to reduce the number of printed volumes by encouraging the use of electronic versions of the same. Currently, all of the information contained in the printed statutes, supplements, and session laws are available on-line through the Oklahoma State Courts Network and various vendors.

The Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and the National Association of Secretaries of State are working to oppose US S.1483, commonly referred to as the Levin Bill. If passed the burden of implementing the proposed mandates will be costly to the states. The requirements of this bill would have a major impact on the information collected by the Business Entity System and on Oklahoma business owners. Efforts have been successful to date, but the bill must be constantly monitored.

HB 2055 (2013), which revised the legislative approval process for state agency rules, significantly impacted operations of the Office of Administrative Rules. The resulting workflow issues for the OAR had to be addressed with emergency rules that created separate and unpopular deadlines for agencies filing permanent rule documents to be published in the Oklahoma Register. As these changes continue to be implemented, the SOS will work toward finding a better solution to the issues created by the passage of HB 2055. The SOS continually monitors the business services statutes for proposed amendments and new law. The proposed language is reviewed for applicability, burden of implementation by business community and the SOS, and fee structure.

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SOS is striving to keep the costs minimal and reduce the costs when possible. The current SB 215 which revises the process of filing Notary Applications and Notary Bonds will help the Agency to cut the printing and mailing costs of Notary Department.

Agency personnel continue to watch for and identify inefficient, redundant or obsolete statutory mandates that offer no value but represent a cost to the user public. These are presented for potential legislative action annually.

CORE MISSION:

The Agency is not required to provide the services outside the core mission. There are no services which are duplicated by another agency. There are no services which are core to the Agency mission which the Agency is unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

The SOS is the only place in the state for a business to register to do business and request specific order types in the State of Oklahoma.