

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 539

By: Deevers

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to county sheriffs; declaring certain
8 authority; prohibiting certain federal employees from
9 taking certain actions without permission; providing
10 exceptions; allowing denial of permission; requiring
11 certain permissions of the Attorney General; allowing
12 denial of permission; providing for validity of
13 written permission; providing for violations;
14 prohibiting discretion of district attorney to not
15 prosecute violations; declaring federal authority of
16 a county sheriff to be rejected; providing for
17 codification; and declaring an emergency.

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

26 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
27 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 517.2 of Title 19, unless there
28 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

29 A. The elected sheriff of each county is the senior
30 authoritative peace officer of that county. The primary duties of
31 the sheriff are to keep the peace in the county and to secure and
32 protect the liberties and security of the residents of the county.

33 B. A federal employee who is not designated by Oklahoma law as
34 an Oklahoma peace officer may not make an arrest, search, or seizure
35

1 in this state without the written permission of the sheriff or
2 designee of the sheriff of the county in which the arrest, search,
3 or seizure will occur unless:

4 1. The arrest, search, or seizure will take place on a federal
5 enclave for which jurisdiction has been actively ceded to the United
6 States of America by the Oklahoma Statutes;

7 2. The federal employee witnesses the commission of a crime,
8 the nature of which requires an immediate arrest;

9 3. The intended subject of the arrest, search, or seizure is an
10 employee of the sheriff's office or is an elected county or state
11 official; or

12 4. The federal employee has probable cause to believe that the
13 subject of the arrest, search, or seizure has close connections with
14 the sheriff, which connections are likely to result in the subject
15 being informed of the impending arrest, search, or seizure.

16 C. The county sheriff or designee of the sheriff may refuse
17 permission for any reason that the sheriff or designee considers
18 sufficient.

19 D. A federal employee who is not designated by Oklahoma law as
20 a peace officer and who desires to exercise an exception under
21 paragraph 3 of subsection B of this section shall obtain the written
22 permission of the Attorney General for the arrest, search, or
23 seizure unless the resulting delay in obtaining permission could
24 cause serious harm to one or more individuals or to a community or
25

1 would potentially cause flight of the subject of the arrest, search,
2 or seizure in order to avoid prosecution. The Attorney General may
3 refuse the permission for any reason that the Attorney General
4 considers sufficient.

5 E. A federal employee who is not designated by Oklahoma law as
6 a peace officer and who desires to exercise an exception under
7 paragraph 4 of subsection B of this section shall obtain the written
8 permission of the Attorney General. The request for permission
9 shall include a written statement, under oath, describing the
10 federal employee's probable cause. The Attorney General may refuse
11 the request for any reason that the Attorney General considers
12 sufficient.

13 F. A request to the county sheriff or Attorney General shall
14 contain:

- 15 1. The name of the subject of the arrest, search, or seizure;
- 16 2. A clear statement of probable cause for the arrest, search,
17 or seizure or a federal arrest, search, or seizure warrant that
18 contains a clear statement of probable cause;
- 19 3. A description of specific assets, if any, to be searched for
20 or seized;
- 21 4. A statement of the date and time that the arrest, search, or
22 seizure is to occur; and
- 23 5. The address or location where the intended arrest, search,
24 or seizure will be attempted.

1 G. The permission may be in letter form, either typed or
2 handwritten, but shall be countersigned with the original signature
3 of the county sheriff or designee of the sheriff or by the Attorney
4 General, to constitute valid permission. The permission is valid
5 for forty-eight (48) hours after it is signed. The sheriff or
6 Attorney General shall keep a copy of the permission request on
7 file.

8 H. An arrest, search, or seizure or attempted arrest, search,
9 or seizure in violation of subsection B of this section is unlawful
10 and individuals involved shall be prosecuted by the district
11 attorney of the county for kidnapping if an arrest or attempted
12 arrest occurred, for trespass if a search or attempted search
13 occurred, for theft if a seizure or attempted seizure occurred, and
14 for any applicable homicide offense if loss of life occurred.

15 I. The district attorney of the county has no discretion not to
16 prosecute once a claim of violation of the provisions of this
17 section has been made by the county sheriff or designee of the
18 sheriff, and failure to abide by this mandate subjects the district
19 attorney to removal in accordance with the provisions of Section
20 1181.1 et seq. of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

21 J. Pursuant to the Tenth Amendment to the United States
22 Constitution, the Legislature declares that any federal law
23 purporting to give federal employees the authority of a county
24 sheriff in this state is not recognized by this state, is

1 specifically rejected by this state, and is declared to be null and
2 void, and of no effect in this state.

3 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
4 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
5 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
6 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

7
8 60-1-1425 MSBB 1/19/2025 5:38:16 AM

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25