

An Act relating to agriculture; creating the Oklahoma Agricultural Referendum Commodity Act; citing act; stating purpose of act; defining terms; providing procedures for petition for certification as an organization authorized to conduct an assessment referendum and election of a commodity producer board; providing for public hearing to consider the petition; providing for the Commissioner of the State Department of Agriculture to determine and certify the organization is representative of the producers of the commodity; authorizing certain organizations to conduct the assessment referendum and board election; providing for public notice; setting estimated amount and basis of the proposed assessment; providing for certain exemption; setting procedure for collection of assessment; providing for referendum and election on a statewide basis; specifying eligibility to vote; specifying eligibility for membership on the board; providing for candidate's name on the ballot; providing for write-in candidates on the ballot; providing for distribution of ballots; providing for certification of volume of voter's production on the ballot; providing for expenses incurred in connection with the referendum and election; authorizing certain exemptions; authorizing the Commissioner to determine if certain ballots are void; providing for the determination of the returns of a referendum and election; providing for the certification of the adoption of the referendum proposition; providing for the certification of the defeat of the referendum proposition; providing for elections for electing members of certain boards; providing for boards to be established; authorizing boards to have certain powers and duties; providing for organization of certain commodity producers boards; providing for terms of office; authorizing the board to elect certain officers; requiring certain officers to execute a corporate surety bond; setting requirements for actions of the board; stating certain powers and duties of the board; providing for certain budget review and expenditure of funds; providing for audits; providing for certain reports; authorizing the board to receive certain funds; providing for certain expenditures; authorizing the processor to collect assessments at the first point of sale; providing for collection of certain assessments; stating no commodity shall be subject to fees more than once per growing season; providing for refunds; providing for propositions for increase maximum rate of assessment; providing for referendum to increase assessment; providing for referendum to discontinue assessments; providing for notice of referendum and election; providing for certain proceedings for recovery of assessments in certain conditions; providing for certain violations; providing for certain exemptions; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.