

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1670

By: Roggow

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; providing procedures for receiving comments from the public at meetings of public bodies; providing method of response to public comments; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 311.1 of Title 25, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Nothing in the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act shall be construed to require public bodies to invite or permit comments from members of the general public during any of their meetings, nor shall anything in the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act be construed as establishing a right of any member of the general public to be permitted to speak before any public body.

B. At their own discretion, public bodies may invite comments from the general public, and nothing in the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act shall be construed to prohibit the hearing of any such comments from the public during an open meeting of a public body that permits such comments.

C. During any open meeting of a public body, subject to the written policy adopted by such body, comments may be allowed from members of the general public concerning any subject under the jurisdiction of the body holding the meeting, and nothing in the

Oklahoma Open Meeting Act shall be construed as restricting such public comments to items on the advance agenda.

D. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action nor discussion shall be undertaken by members of a public body on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a public body or its staff may make brief comments in response to statements made or questions posed by members of the general public. A member of a public body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the public body, may refer an issue to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2003.

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