

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2580

By: Hyman of the House

3 and

4 Ballenger of the Senate

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7 An Act relating to counties; amending 19 O.S. 2001,
8 Section 298, which relates to information necessary
9 for indexing by county clerks; requiring certain
information for legal description; and providing an
effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2001, Section 298, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 298. A. Every county clerk in this state shall require
16 that the mandates of the Legislature be complied with, as expressed
17 in Sections 287 and 291 of this title, and for that purpose, every
18 instrument offered which may be accepted by the county clerk for
19 recording, affecting specific real property whether of conveyance,
20 encumbrance, assignment, or release of encumbrance, lease,
21 assignment of lease or release of lease, shall be an original or
22 certified copy of an original instrument and clearly legible in
23 accordance with the provisions of subsection B of this section, and
24 shall by its own terms describe the property by its specific legal

1 description, may contain by lot and block, quarter section, or
2 portion of the quarter section, and provide such information as is
3 necessary for indexing as required in Sections 287 and 291 of this
4 title, and on each such instrument shall be listed the mailing
5 address of the grantee, mortgagee, assignee or other designated
6 party to which the instrument is to be delivered after recording.
7 If an instrument offered to a county clerk for recording contains
8 more than twenty-five legal descriptions requiring separate entries
9 in the indexes required by Sections 287 and 291 of this title, the
10 descriptions shall be sorted by addition, block, and lot if platted
11 property, or by township, range, and section if described by
12 governmental survey description. Any instrument offered to a county
13 clerk for recording containing more than twenty-five legal
14 descriptions per page, counted as each description which could
15 require a separate line entry in the numerical index, shall be
16 accompanied by an additional filing fee of One Dollar (\$1.00) per
17 legal description in excess of twenty-five legal descriptions per
18 page to be paid to the county clerk. Unless the person offering a
19 nonconforming instrument for filing is willing to reform the
20 instrument to conform to statutory requirements, for which purpose
21 it may be withdrawn and refiled during the same business day, the
22 county clerk may refuse to record the same in the records of deeds,
23 leases or mortgages or to index the same upon the index records

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1 referred to in Sections 287 or 291 of this title, or to file or
2 record the same in the office of the county clerk.

3 B. All documents filed of record in the office of the county
4 clerk pursuant to subsection A of this section or pursuant to any
5 other law shall be an original or a certified copy of an original
6 document. Such documents shall be clearly legible, in the English
7 language, using xerographically reproducible dark ink, on paper of a
8 color that is xerographically reproducible by the copying equipment
9 in use by the county clerk. Unless otherwise provided by law, such
10 documents shall measure no larger than eight and one-half (8 1/2)
11 inches by fourteen (14) inches. All documents shall provide an area
12 free of printed information sufficient in size to accommodate
13 affixation of the documentary stamps required by Section 3201 of
14 Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, any certification of the payment
15 of mortgage taxes required by Section 1901 et seq. of Title 68 of
16 the Oklahoma Statutes, and the recording information affixed by the
17 county clerk upon acceptance of a document for recordation. If an
18 instrument submitted to the county clerk for recording does not
19 contain sufficient space for the affixation of such stamps and
20 recording information without covering language contained in the
21 instrument, the county clerk shall attach an additional page to the
22 document to provide for the affixation of such stamps and recording
23 information. The top margin of all documents shall be at least one
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1 (1) inch and all other margins shall be at least one-half (1/2)
2 inch.

3 C. Despite any provision in this section to the contrary, the
4 county clerk shall accept for filing any document that fails to meet
5 the requirements of subsection B of this section if:

6 1. The document is an original or a certified copy of an
7 original;

8 2. The document is legible without the aid of magnification or
9 other enhancement of the text;

10 3. The document is xerographically reproducible by the copying
11 equipment in use by the county clerk;

12 4. The document meets all other statutory requirements for
13 recordation; and

14 5. The person offering the instrument for recording pays the
15 additional fee provided in Section 32 of Title 28 of the Oklahoma
16 Statutes for nonconforming documents.

17 D. This section shall not apply to plats, filings under the
18 Uniform Commercial Code, or any other instruments that may be filed
19 pursuant to any other law.

20 E. All documents accepted for filing, including all documents
21 filed before the effective date of this act, shall be deemed to
22 comply with the requirements of this section and, except as
23 otherwise provided by law, impart constructive notice of the
24 contents of such document to third parties unless a person claiming

1 adversely to any such document files an affidavit setting forth the
2 basis of such claim in the office of the county clerk of the county
3 where the property is located within six (6) months from the
4 effective date of this act.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2008.

6 Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of February,
7 2008.

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10 Presiding Officer of the House of
11 Representatives

12 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2008.

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15 Presiding Officer of the Senate

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