

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2852

By: Wright (John), Reynolds and
Faught of the House

3 and

4 Aldridge of the Senate
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8 An Act relating to statutes and reports; amending 75
9 O.S. 2001, Sections 250.3 and 253, which relate to
10 the Administrative Procedures Act; modifying
11 definitions; defining terms; modifying procedure for
12 emergency rules; and providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 75 O.S. 2001, Section 250.3, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 250.3 As used in the Administrative Procedures Act:

17 1. "Administrative head" means an official or agency body
18 responsible pursuant to law for issuing final agency orders;

19 2. "Adopted" means ~~that~~ a proposed emergency rule or permanent
20 rule which has been approved by the agency but has not been reviewed
21 by the Legislature and the Governor;

22 3. "Agency" includes but is not limited to any constitutionally
23 or statutorily created state board, bureau, commission, office,
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1 authority, public trust in which the state is a beneficiary, or
2 interstate commission, except:

3 a. the Legislature or any branch, committee or officer
4 thereof, and

5 b. the courts;

6 4. "Emergency rule" means a rule that is made pursuant to
7 Section 253 of this title;

8 5. "Final" or "finally adopted" means a rule other than an
9 emergency rule, which has been approved by the Legislature and by
10 the Governor, or approved by the Legislature pursuant to subsection
11 B of Section 308 of this title and otherwise complies with the
12 requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act but has not been
13 published pursuant to Section 255 of this title;

14 ~~5.~~ 6. "Final agency order" means an order that includes
15 findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Section 312 of
16 this title, is dispositive of an individual proceeding unless there
17 is a request for rehearing, reopening, or reconsideration pursuant
18 to Section 317 of this title and which is subject to judicial
19 review;

20 ~~6.~~ 7. "Hearing examiner" means a person meeting the
21 qualifications specified by Article II of the Administrative
22 Procedures Act and who has been duly appointed by an agency to hold
23 hearings and, as required, render orders or proposed orders;

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1 ~~7.~~ 8. "Individual proceeding" means the formal process employed
2 by an agency having jurisdiction by law to resolve issues of law or
3 fact between parties and which results in the exercise of discretion
4 of a judicial nature;

5 ~~8.~~ 9. "License" includes the whole or part of any agency
6 permit, certificate, approval, registration, charter, or similar
7 form of permission required by law;

8 ~~9.~~ 10. "Office" means the Office of the Secretary of State;

9 ~~10.~~ 11. "Order" means all or part of a formal or official
10 decision made by an agency including but not limited to final agency
11 orders;

12 ~~11.~~ 12. "Party" means a person or agency named and
13 participating, or properly seeking and entitled by law to
14 participate, in an individual proceeding;

15 ~~12.~~ 13. "Permanent rule" means a rule that is made pursuant to
16 Section 303 of this title;

17 14. "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation,
18 association, governmental subdivision, or public or private
19 organization of any character other than an agency;

20 ~~13.~~ 15. "Political subdivision" means a county, city,
21 incorporated town or school district within this state;

22 ~~14.~~ 16. "Promulgated rule" means a finally adopted rule which
23 has been filed and published in accordance with the provisions of
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1 the Administrative Procedures Act, or an emergency rule or
2 preemptory rule which has been approved by the Governor;

3 ~~15.~~ 17. "Rule" means any agency statement or group of related
4 statements of general applicability and future effect that
5 implements, interprets or prescribes law or policy, or describes the
6 procedure or practice requirements of the agency. The term "rule"
7 includes the amendment or revocation of an effective rule but does
8 not include:

9 a. the issuance, renewal, denial, suspension or
10 revocation or other sanction of an individual specific
11 license,

12 b. the approval, disapproval or prescription of rates.
13 For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "rates"
14 shall not include fees or charges fixed by an agency
15 for services provided by that agency including but not
16 limited to fees charged for licensing, permitting,
17 inspections or publications,

18 c. statements and memoranda concerning only the internal
19 management of an agency and not affecting private
20 rights or procedures available to the public,

21 d. declaratory rulings issued pursuant to Section 307 of
22 this title,

23 e. orders by an agency, or
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1 f. press releases or "agency news releases", provided
2 such releases are not for the purpose of interpreting,
3 implementing or prescribing law or agency policy;

4 ~~16.~~ 18. "Rulemaking" means the process employed by an agency
5 for the formulation of a rule; and

6 ~~17.~~ 19. "Secretary" means the Secretary of State.

7 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 75 O.S. 2001, Section 253, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 253. A. 1. If an agency finds that ~~an imminent peril~~
10 ~~exists to the preservation of the public health, safety, or welfare,~~
11 ~~or that a compelling public interest requires an emergency rule,~~
12 ~~amendment, revision, or revocation of an existing rule, an agency~~
13 ~~may promulgate, at any time, any such rule, provided the Governor~~
14 ~~first approves such rule pursuant to the provisions of this section~~
15 a rule is necessary as an emergency measure, the rule may be
16 promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this section, if the rule
17 is first approved by the Governor. The Governor shall not approve
18 the adoption, amendment, revision or revocation of a rule as an
19 emergency measure unless the agency submits substantial evidence
20 that the rule is necessary as an emergency measure to do any of the
21 following:

- 22 a. protect the public health, safety or welfare,
23 b. comply with deadlines in amendments to an agency's
24 governing law or federal programs,

- 1 c. avoid violation of federal law or regulation or other
2 state law,
3 d. avoid imminent reduction to the agency's budget, or
4 e. avoid serious prejudice to the public interest.

5 As used in this subsection, "substantial evidence" shall mean
6 credible evidence which is of sufficient quality and probative value
7 to enable a person of reasonable caution to support a conclusion.

8 2. In determining whether a rule is necessary as an emergency
9 measure, the Governor shall consider whether the emergency situation
10 was created due to the agency's delay or inaction and could have
11 been averted by timely compliance with the provisions of this
12 chapter.

13 B. An emergency rule adopted by an agency shall:

14 1. Be prepared in the format required by Section 251 of this
15 title;

16 2. a. Include an impact statement which meets the
17 requirements ~~contained in Section 303 of this title~~
18 set forth in subparagraph b of this paragraph unless
19 ~~such impact statement is, with the prior written~~
20 ~~consent of the Governor, waived specifically by the~~
21 ~~agency to the extent an agency for good cause finds~~
22 ~~the preparation of a~~ waives the requirement in writing
23 upon a finding that the rule impact statement or the
24 specified contents thereof are unnecessary or contrary

1 to the public interest ~~in the process of promulgating~~
2 ~~an emergency rule. In addition, the impact statement~~
3 ~~shall provide information on any cost impacts of the~~
4 ~~rule received by the agency from any private or public~~
5 ~~entities.~~

6 b. The rule impact statement shall include, but not be
7 limited to:

8 (1) a brief description of the proposed rule,

9 (2) a description of the persons who most likely will
10 be affected by the proposed rule, including
11 classes that will bear the costs of the proposed
12 rule, and any information on cost impacts
13 received by the agency from any private or public
14 entities,

15 (3) a description of the classes of persons who will
16 benefit from the proposed rule,

17 (4) a description of the probable economic impact of
18 the proposed rule upon affected classes of
19 persons or political subdivisions, including a
20 listing of all fee changes and, whenever
21 possible, a separate justification for each fee
22 change,

23 (5) the probable costs and benefits to the agency and
24 to any other agency of the implementation and

1 enforcement of the proposed rule, and any
2 anticipated effect on state revenues, including a
3 projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it
4 can be projected by the agency,

5 (6) a determination of whether implementation of the
6 proposed rule may have an adverse economic effect
7 on small business as provided by the Oklahoma
8 Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act,

9 (7) an explanation of the measures the agency has
10 taken to minimize compliance costs and a
11 determination of whether there are less costly or
12 nonregulatory methods or less intrusive methods
13 for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule,

14 (8) a determination of the effect of the proposed
15 rule on the public health, safety and environment
16 and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce
17 significant risks to the public health, safety
18 and environment, an explanation of the nature of
19 the risk and to what extent the proposed rule
20 will reduce the risk,

21 (9) a determination of any detrimental effect on the
22 public health, safety and environment if the
23 proposed rule is not implemented, and
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1 (10) the date the rule impact statement was prepared
2 and if modified, the date modified.

3 c. The rule impact statement shall be prepared on or
4 before the date the emergency rule is adopted;

5 3. Be transmitted ~~in duplicate~~ pursuant to Section 464 of Title
6 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes to the Governor, the Speaker of the
7 Oklahoma House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of
8 the Senate, ~~including~~ along with the information required by this
9 subsection within ten (10) days after the rule is adopted; and

10 4. ~~One copy to be transmitted on the same day that filing~~
11 ~~occurs with the Governor to the Oklahoma Advisory Committee on~~
12 ~~Intergovernmental Relations if the emergency rule would have an~~
13 ~~impact on political subdivisions as determined by the agency in the~~
14 ~~rule impact statement. The filing shall include all information~~
15 ~~supplied to the Governor regarding such emergency rule pursuant to~~
16 ~~this section and Section 251 of this title~~ Not be invalidated on the
17 ground that the contents of the rule impact statement are
18 insufficient or inaccurate.

19 C. 1. ~~Upon the filing of an adopted~~ Within forty-five (45)
20 calendar days of receipt of a proposed emergency rule ~~by an agency~~
21 filed with the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of
22 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, ~~under~~
23 ~~the provisions of subsection B of this section,~~ the Governor shall
24 review ~~such~~ the demonstration of emergency pursuant to subsection A

1 of this section, and shall separately review the rule and shall
2 ~~decide as to whether or not such emergency rule should be approved~~
3 in accordance with the standards prescribed in paragraph 3 of this
4 subsection.

5 2. Prior to approval of emergency rules, the Governor shall
6 submit the emergency rule to the Secretary of State for review of
7 proper formatting.

8 ~~2- 3.~~ 3. If the Governor disapproves the adopted emergency rule
9 determines the agency has established the rule is necessary as an
10 emergency measure pursuant to subsection A of this section, the
11 Governor shall ~~return the entire document to the agency with reasons~~
12 ~~for the disapproval. If the agency elects to modify such rule, the~~
13 ~~agency shall make such modifications and resubmit the rule to the~~
14 ~~Governor for approval~~ approve the proposed emergency rule if the
15 rule is:

- 16 a. clear, concise and understandable,
17 b. within the power of the agency to make and within the
18 enacted legislative standards, and
19 c. made in compliance with the requirements of the
20 Administrative Procedures Act.

21 ~~3. Emergency rules adopted by an agency or approved by the~~
22 ~~Governor shall be subject to review pursuant to the provisions of~~
23 ~~Section 306 of this title.~~

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1 D. 1. ~~Upon approval by the Governor, an emergency rule shall~~
2 ~~be considered promulgated and shall be in force immediately, or on~~
3 ~~such later date as specified therein. An emergency rule shall only~~
4 ~~be applied prospectively from its effective date.~~

5 2. ~~The Governor shall have forty five (45) calendar days to~~
6 ~~review the emergency rule. Within the forty-five-calendar-day~~
7 ~~period set forth in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section, the~~
8 Governor may approve the emergency rule or disapprove the emergency
9 rule. Failure of the Governor to approve an emergency rule within
10 the specified period shall constitute disapproval of the emergency
11 rule.

12 2. If the Governor disapproves the adopted emergency rule, the
13 Governor shall return the entire document to the agency with reasons
14 for the disapproval. If the agency elects to modify the rule, the
15 agency shall adopt the modifications, and shall file the modified
16 rule in accordance with the requirements of subsection B of this
17 section.

18 3. Upon disapproval of an emergency rule, the Governor shall
19 notify, within fifteen (15) days, in writing, make written
20 notification to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
21 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Office of Administrative
22 Rules.

23 E. 1. Upon approval of an emergency rule, the Governor shall
24 immediately ~~notify~~ make written notification to the agency, the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore
2 of the Senate and the Office of Administrative Rules. Upon receipt
3 of the notice of the approval, the agency shall file with the Office
4 of Administrative Rules ~~the number of copies required by the~~
5 ~~Secretary of the written approval and the emergency rule~~ as many
6 copies of the notice of approval and the emergency rule as required
7 by the Secretary.

8 2. ~~A copy of the Governor's approval shall be submitted by the~~
9 ~~Governor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the~~
10 ~~President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Office of Administrative~~
11 ~~Rules when the rulemaking agency is notified of approval~~ Emergency
12 rules shall be subject to legislative review pursuant to Section 308
13 of this title.

14 3. The emergency rule shall be published in accordance with the
15 provisions of Section 255 of this title in "The Oklahoma Register"
16 following the approval by the Governor. The Governor's approval and
17 the approved rules shall be retained as official records by the
18 Office of Administrative Rules.

19 F. ~~Emergency rules shall be effective from the date of approval~~
20 ~~by the Governor or a later date as specified in the approved~~
21 ~~emergency rule, unless otherwise specifically provided by the~~
22 ~~Legislature, through the first day of the next succeeding Regular~~
23 ~~Session of the Oklahoma Legislature, after the promulgation of such~~
24 ~~emergency rule, and shall be in full force and effect through July~~

1 ~~14 following such session unless it is made ineffective pursuant to~~
2 ~~subsection H of this section~~ 1. Upon approval by the Governor, an
3 emergency rule shall be considered promulgated and shall be in force
4 immediately, or on such later date as specified therein. An
5 emergency rule shall only be applied prospectively from its
6 effective date.

7 2. The emergency rule shall remain in full force and effect
8 through the first day of the next succeeding regular session of the
9 Legislature following promulgation of such emergency rule until July
10 14 following such session, unless it is made ineffective pursuant to
11 subsection H of this section.

12 G. No agency shall adopt any emergency rule which establishes
13 or increases fees, except during such times as the Legislature is in
14 session, unless specifically mandated by the Legislature or federal
15 legislation, or when the failure to establish or increase fees would
16 conflict with an order issued by a court of law.

17 H. 1. If an emergency rule is of a continuing nature, the
18 agency promulgating such emergency rule shall initiate proceedings
19 for promulgation of a permanent rule pursuant to Sections 303
20 through 308.2 of this title. If an emergency rule is superseded by
21 another emergency rule prior to the enactment of a permanent rule,
22 the latter emergency rule shall retain the same expiration date as
23 the superseded emergency rule, unless otherwise authorized by the
24 Legislature.

1 2. Any promulgated emergency rule shall be made ineffective if:

2 a. disapproved by the Legislature,

3 b. superseded by the promulgation of permanent rules,

4 c. any adopted rules based upon such emergency rules are
5 subsequently disapproved pursuant to Section 308 of
6 this title, or

7 d. an earlier expiration date is specified by the agency
8 in the rules.

9 3. a. Emergency rules in effect on the first day of the
10 session shall be null and void on July 15 immediately
11 following sine die adjournment of the Legislature
12 unless otherwise specifically provided by the
13 Legislature.

14 b. Unless otherwise authorized by the Legislature, by
15 concurrent resolution or by law, an agency shall not
16 adopt any emergency rule, which has become null and
17 void pursuant to subparagraph a of this paragraph, as
18 a new emergency rule or adopt any emergency rules of
19 similar scope or intent as the emergency rules which
20 became null and void pursuant to subparagraph a of
21 this paragraph.

22 I. Emergency rules shall not become effective unless approved
23 by the Governor pursuant to the provisions of this section.

1 J. 1. The requirements of Section 303 of this title relating
2 to notice and hearing shall not be applicable to emergency rules
3 promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this section. Provided
4 this shall not be construed to prevent an abbreviated notice and
5 hearing process determined to be necessary by an agency.

6 2. The rule report required pursuant to Section 303.1 of this
7 title shall not be applicable to emergency rules promulgated
8 pursuant to the provisions of this section. Provided this shall not
9 be construed to prevent an agency from complying with such
10 requirements at the discretion of such agency.

11 3. The statement of submission required by Section 303.1 of
12 this title shall not be applicable to emergency rules promulgated
13 pursuant to the provisions of this section.

14 K. Prior to approval or disapproval of an emergency rule by the
15 Governor, an agency may withdraw from review an emergency rule
16 submitted pursuant to the provisions of this section. Notice of
17 such withdrawal shall be given to the Governor, the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in
19 accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 464 of Title
20 74 and to the Office of Administrative Rules as required by the
21 Secretary. In order to be promulgated as emergency rules, any
22 replacement rules shall be resubmitted pursuant to the provisions of
23 this section.

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