# STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE BILL 1075

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By: Morrissette

### AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to cedar trees; amending 2 O.S. 2011, Sections 18-401, 18-403, 18-404, 18-406, 18-407, as amended by Section 19, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 and 18-408 (2 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 18-407), which relate to the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board Act; changing name of the act; terminating the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board; providing for transfer to the Office of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Coordinator; changing references to the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board; creating the Office of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Coordinator; moving administration, support and expenditure of funds related to the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Act from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to the Department of Environmental Quality; deleting membership and appointments to the Board; providing for employment and authority of the Coordinator; setting salary of the Coordinator; providing for budgeting and funding of the salary of the Coordinator; adding certain duties; creating the Oklahoma Resource Reclamation Act; providing for implementation of the act; defining terms; declaring the public interest in managing private lands in the state for certain purpose; specifying certain goals; providing for determination of infestation; requiring notification by the Oklahoma Tax Commission; allowing municipalities to create certain lists; authorizing the Tax Commission to post certain lists on its website; encouraging certain insurers to offer incentives for policyholders who implement a certain program; defining term; allowing an owner of certain property to have the property reclassified; directing the county assessor to reclassify certain property; providing for reassessment upon certain conditions; providing in lieu tax treatment for certain property;

requiring verification by the county assessor; setting limit on the number of acres that may be approved; requiring the county assessor to verify limit; directing the Oklahoma Tax Commission to keep certain records; requiring filing of approval and election with county assessor; setting in lieu tax rate; setting filing deadline; providing for payment to county treasurer; providing for apportionment according to existing millage levies; providing for in lieu tax treatment; disqualifying property for certain exemption; providing penalty for nonpayment; amending 68 O.S. 2011, Section 2805, which relates to ad valorem taxes; expanding list of in lieu taxes; allowing a tax credit for certain qualified biomass expenditures; defining terms; establishing amount of credit; allowing credit to be carried forward; allowing credit to be claimed separately in certain cases; authorizing the Oklahoma Tax Commission to promulgate rules; creating the Oklahoma Woody Biomass Energy Initiative Act of 2015; making legislative findings; defining certain term; creating the Woody Biomass Energy Initiative Council; establishing termination date; providing for membership; requiring appointments by a certain date; providing for meetings, a quorum, vacancies and staffing; providing for travel reimbursement; making reimbursement and staffing contingent upon funding; requiring the Council to comply with certain acts; specifying duties; authorizing the Council to apply for and use certain funds; amending 74 O.S. 2011, Section 85.44D, as amended by Section 757, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (74 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 85.44D), which relates to purchasing preferences for products made from Oklahoma-harvested trees; modifying certain date; requiring the Purchasing Division of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to register certain manufacturers into the vendor registration system; directing the Division to waive certain fees; amending Section 2, Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2012 and Section 3, Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2012, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2014 (17 O.S. Supp. 2014, Sections 802.2 and 802.3), which relate to the Oklahoma Energy Initiative Act; adding certain duties to the Oklahoma Energy Initiative relating to woody biomass energy production; expanding the membership of the Oklahoma Energy Initiative Board; directing the Board to establish a woody biomass working group;

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repealing 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-405, which relates 1 to support, resources and supplies from the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry; 2 providing for codification; providing for noncodification; providing for recodification; and providing an effective date. 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 5 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-401, is SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 6 amended to read as follows: Section 18-401. Sections 3 through 9 7 of this act shall be 8 known and may be cited as the "Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board 9

1 0 Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

The activities and operations of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry 1 3 Board shall terminate on the effective date of this act. The Board 1 4 shall cease to exist after the effective date of this act. 1 5 All documents, records, property, fund balances, encumbrances, 1 6 obligations and other resources of the Board shall be transferred to 1 7 the Office of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Coordinator. The 1 8 Office of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Coordinator shall succeed 1 9 to any contractual rights and responsibilities incurred by the 2 0 Board. 2 1

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-403, is amended to read as follows:

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1	Section 18-403. A. There is hereby created the Office of the
2	Eastern Red Cedar Registry <del>Board</del> <u>Coordinator</u> . The <del>Board</del> <u>Coordinator</u>
3	shall be under the authority of the State Board of Agriculture
4	Department of Environmental Quality. The Board shall consist of the
5	following members:
6	1. The Covernor shall appoint three members as follows:
7	a. one member representing a property owner in the state,
8	b. one member engaged in the business of harvesting
9	Eastern Red Cedar trees in the state, and
1 0	c. one member engaged in the business of manufacturing
1 1	products from Eastern Red Cedar trees;
1 2	2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
1 3	two members as follows:
1 4	a. one member with a background or experience in
1 5	marketing agricultural products, and
1 6	b. one member with a background or experience in
1 7	renewable energy;
1 8	3. The President Pro Tempore of the State Senate shall appoint
1 9	two members as follows:
2 0	a. one member from a higher education institution in The
2 0	a. one member from a higher education institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education who
2 1	Oklahoma State System of Higher Education who

1	b. one member from a higher education institution in The
2	Oklahoma State System of Higher Education who
3	specializes in forestry and forest management;
4	4. The Commissioner of Agriculture, or a designee;
5	5. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation
6	Commission;
7	6. The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental
8	Quality, or designee;
9	7. A member of the Corporation Commission, or designee; and
1 0	8. A member appointed by and representing the Natural Resources
1 1	Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.
1 2	B. The initial appointment for each member appointed by the
1 3	Governor shall be for progressive terms of one (1) through three (3)
1 4	years. The initial appointment for each member appointed by the
1 5	Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be for progressive
1 6	terms of one (1) and two (2) years. The initial appointment for
1 7	each member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State
1 8	Senate shall be for progressive terms of one (1) and two (2) years.
1 9	Subsequent appointments shall be for three-year terms. Members
2 0	shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed. Any
2 1	vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original
2 2	appointment. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms
2 3	The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality
2 4	shall employ a person in the position of the Eastern Red Cedar

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1	Registry Coordinator. The position of the Coordinator shall be a
2	state employee position subject to the Oklahoma Personnel Act. The
3	Coordinator shall have authority as provided for in the Eastern Red
4	Cedar Registry Act as well as any other authority established by the
5	Executive Director. The salary of the Coordinator shall not be less
6	than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) nor more than Forty
7	Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00). The salary and any other expenses
8	for the Coordinator shall be budgeted as a separate line item
9	through the Department of Environmental Quality. All or part of the
1 0	funds for the salary of the Coordinator may be from monies in the
1 1	Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund created in Section 6 of this act.
1 2	C. The members of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraphs 1,
1 3	2 and 3 of subsection A of this section may nominate up to sixteen
1 4	persons who are residents of the state to serve on a citizens'
1 5	auxiliary group. The nominations shall be approved by a majority
1 6	vote of the Board. Members of the citizens' auxiliary group shall
1 7	not have voting rights and privileges on the Board and shall serve
1 8	three-year terms. The citizens' auxiliary group will provide
1 9	information and feedback to the Board on issues related to the
2 0	Eastern Red Cedar tree and shall assist the Board in achieving its
2 1	duties as set forth in the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board Act.
2 2	SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-404, is
2 3	amended to read as follows:

Section 18-404. A. The <u>Office of the</u> Eastern Red Cedar Registry <del>Board</del> <u>Coordinator</u> shall establish procedures and standards and oversee the following:

The administration of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry for
 Eastern Red Cedar trees in the state. <u>The registry shall be a new</u>
 <u>online field registry developed in cooperation with the Oklahoma</u>
 <u>Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry.</u> Private landowners
 in the state may register the location of their property, the level
 of infestation of Eastern Red Cedar trees on the property, and
 average size of the trees on the property. The <u>Board Coordinator</u>
 shall develop and implement an application and registration process
 for landowners;

2. Promote the harvesting of Eastern Red Cedar trees. Persons or entities involved in the harvesting of Eastern Red Cedar trees or the manufacturing of products from Eastern Red Cedar trees may apply for registration with the <u>Board Coordinator</u>. The <u>Board Coordinator</u> shall develop and implement <del>an</del> <u>a field and online</u> application and registration process for harvesters and manufacturers;

3. Maintain harvesting records of Eastern Red Cedar trees in the state;

4. Promote the development of new uses and markets for Eastern
 Red Cedar trees and Eastern Red Cedar products;

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 <sup>3</sup> 5. Promote marketing, research and education efforts concerning
 <sup>4</sup> the Eastern Red Cedar tree and Eastern Red Cedar products;

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6. Cooperate with any local, state, regional, or nationwide organization or agency engaged in work or activities consistent with the objectives of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board Act;

7. Assist communities located in any county in the state to organize and establish community-owned Eastern Red Cedar projects in the community and to recruit and locate private for-profit Eastern 6 Red Cedar businesses in the community including but not limited to harvesting operations, biofuel plants, cedar oil manufacturing 8 facilities, or other cedar product manufacturing facilities. The 9 Board Coordinator shall assist in securing financing, infrastructure 1 0 and other resources. The Board Coordinator shall also provide 1 1 1 2 direction and assistance to the community-based projects and individually owned businesses on steps to take in order to qualify 1 3 for existing sales tax credits and income tax credits; 1 4

8. Provide a process for the transfer of donated Eastern Red Cedar trees from landowners registered with the <u>Board</u> <u>Coordinator</u> to registered harvesters and manufacturers;

9. Establish a limit on the number of acres of private property and the number of harvesters that may be registered on the registry during a calendar year; and

10. <u>Travel to all counties in the state identified by the</u>
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry as having
known infestations or developing infestations of Eastern Red Cedar
for the purpose of hosting community-based meetings to inform local

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governments and private landowners or lessors of land of the opportunities for cedar control;

<u>11. Work with local governments and private landowners or</u>
 <u>lessors of land requesting assistance with referrals to existing</u>
 <u>resources and to assist in the development of a long-range</u>
 <u>management plan and in securing grants to assist with implementation</u>
 <u>of the long-range management plan;</u>

<u>12. Work with cedar associations to provide no-cost training in</u>
 the area of cedar infestation control; and

10 <u>13.</u> Take any other actions necessary to implement the Eastern Red Cedar Registry <del>Board</del> Act.

B. The Board Coordinator and all landowners and harvesters registered with the Board Coordinator shall comply with all applicable provisions of Article 16 of Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes, known as the Oklahoma Forestry Code, when managing and harvesting Eastern Red Cedar trees.

C. The Board shall annually elect a chair from among the members. The Board shall meet regularly, but in no case shall it meet less than one time per calendar quarter, and shall meet at any other times as called by the chair, or upon request of three or more members of the Board.

D. Upon the availability of funds, the Board Coordinator shall prepare an annual report of all activities for each fiscal year. The annual report shall be filed with the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the State
 Senate.

3 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-406, is 4 amended to read as follows:

Section 18-406. A. Eastern Red Cedar trees removed from lands
 owned by any state agency or any person or entity with authority to
 remove the trees from state-owned lands may be provided to
 harvesters registered with the <u>Office of the</u> Eastern Red Cedar
 Registry <del>Board</del> Coordinator in a manner consistent with law.

B. A state agency may cooperate with the <u>Office of the</u> Eastern Red Cedar Registry <del>Board</del> <u>Coordinator</u> to issue permits to registered harvesters to allow the harvesting of Eastern Red Cedar trees on land owned by the state agency.

 SECTION 6.
 AMENDATORY
 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-407, as

 amended by Section 19, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (2 O.S. Supp. 2014,

 Section 18-407), is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-407. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a 1 7 revolving fund for the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board to be 1 8 designated the "Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund". The fund shall 1 9 be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and 2 0 shall consist of all monies received by the State Board of 2 1 Agriculture Department of Environmental Quality for the Office of 2 2 the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board Coordinator from the state 2 3 income tax checkoff as provided for in Section  $\frac{18-408}{18-408}$  7 of this 2 4

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title <u>act</u>, the special license plate issued pursuant to Section
 1135.5 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes, any state-appropriated
 funds, federal funds, donations, grants, contributions, and gifts
 from any public or private source. All monies accruing to the
 credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
 expended by the State Board of Agriculture Department of

Environmental Quality for payment of the salary of the Office of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Coordinator and as otherwise directed by the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board and for the purposes set forth in the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board Act. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-408, is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-408. A. Each individual taxpayer required to file a state income tax return who desires to contribute to the Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund, as created in Section & <u>6</u> of this act, may designate the contribution on the appropriate income tax form. The contribution may not increase or decrease the income or liability of the taxpayer and may be made by reducing the income tax refund of a taxpayer by the amount designated or by accepting additional payment

1 from the taxpayer by the amount designated, whichever is
2 appropriate.

The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall include on each state Β. 1. individual income tax return form for tax years beginning after December 31, 2010, an opportunity for the taxpayer to donate for the benefit of the Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund. The instructions 6 accompanying the income tax form shall be provided to the Oklahoma Tax Commission by the Office of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board 8 Coordinator and shall contain a description of the purpose for which 9 the Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund was established and information 1 0 on the use of monies from the income tax contribution. 1 1

2. Taxpayers who are entitled to refunds shall have the refunds reduced by the amount designated by the taxpayer. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall annually determine the total amount designated plus the amount received in excess payments and shall report the total amount to the Office of the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall credit the total amount to the Eastern Red Cedar Revolving Fund created in Section 8 of this act at the earliest possible time.

C. The incremental cost of administration of contributions shall be paid out of the fund to the Oklahoma Tax Commission from amounts received pursuant to this section before funds are expended for the purposes of the fund.

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SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-2-101 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: Sections 8 through 11 of this act shall be known and may be

cited as the "Oklahoma Resource Reclamation Act".

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-2-102 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The provisions of the Oklahoma Resource Reclamation Act shall be implemented in accordance with the provisions of Sections 22-110.1 and 22-112.4 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes, also known as the Protect Property Rights Act.

SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-2-103 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For purposes of the Oklahoma Resource Reclamation Act:

1. "Eastern Red Cedar" shall mean only the Juniperus Virginiana 1. tree; and

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B. For the purposes of the Oklahoma Resource Reclamation Act, it is in the public interest that private occupied and unoccupied lands within the state be managed to:

Discourage the proliferation of wildfires;

Reduce and control the infestation of Eastern Red Cedar
 trees on lands;

3. Modify the growth of Eastern Red Cedar trees from areas 4 within one hundred (100) feet of homes or other structures, so as to 5 reduce the threat and severity of wildfires by creating a defensible 6 zone in accordance with the Firewise Program guidelines adopted by 7 the National Fire Protection Association;

4. Observe and protect all land-use rights of adjacent private
 property landowners and public property to include methods and
 programs to discourage passive land-management practices;

5. To protect water rights, including the demise of farm ponds, naturally occurring or manmade lakes, naturally occurring streams and adequate surface and subsurface water tables; and

6. To protect the real property rights of established categories of property as defined by the Oklahoma Tax Commission and county assessors to include the preservation of grazing land, cropland, wildlife habitat, commercial stands of naturally occurring timberland consisting of valuable timbers other than Eastern Red Cedar trees at infestation levels.

C. It is in the public interest that local county and municipal governments, including county assessors, be allowed to engage the Oklahoma Tax Commission in a process of property-owner notification of the infestation of Eastern Red Cedar. A determination of infestation shall not require a census but shall be determined by

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observational analysis made by representatives of local governments 1 gathering and recording observational and estimated infestation 2 The data may be submitted to the Tax Commission, which shall data. upon receipt issue by mail a notification of infestation to the landowner of record. The notification shall include the data gathered by local governments. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a municipality from creating a list of the property owners or the designees of property owners of residential, commercial or 8 leased real property to ensure the public safety and welfare of its 9 citizens. The Tax Commission may post upon its website a list of 1 0 private and public landowners which have been issued notices of 1 1 1 2 infestation. The provisions of this section shall not subvert, preclude or interfere with the right of any public or private 1 3 property owner under existing law to pursue damages and compensation 1 4 in a court of law. 1 5

SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-2-104 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Insurers duly licensed in the state writing property insurance are hereby encouraged to provide incentives to policyholders who implement and conform to Firewise Program guidelines adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, including creating a onehundred-foot defensible zone free of Juniperus Virginiana, commonly known as the Eastern Red Cedar, around homes and other structures.

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SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2902.5 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this section, "qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property" means property:

1. Either:

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a. classified as cropland, improved pasture, native
 pasture or timber waste which does not have
 improvements such as a homestead exemption filed on
 the property and is infested with Eastern Red Cedar
 encroachment of more than fifty trees per acre which
 are at least five (5) feet tall or less than one (1)
 acre with half of the surface area containing Eastern
 Red Cedar in close proximity, or

classified as nonagricultural and which is infested b. 1 5 with Eastern Red Cedar encroachment of more than fifty 1 6 trees per acre which are at least five (5) feet tall 1 7 or less than one (1) acre with half of the surface 1 8 area containing Eastern Red Cedar in close proximity; 1 9 Registered pursuant to the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Act; 2. 2 0 and 2 1

3. On which the owner is actively engaged in the removal of
 Eastern Red Cedar.

B. As used in this section "Eastern Red Cedar" shall mean only
 the Juniperus Virginiana tree.

C. An owner of qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property may apply to the county assessor for the county in which the property is located to have the property reclassified to timber waste or the lowest classification category allowed in the county. If the county assessor verifies that the property is qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property, the county assessor shall reclassify the property at the 8 regular interval of reassessment, with or without visual inspection, 9 as timber waste. The qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property shall 1 0 remain at the reclassified category until the owner has removed the 1 1 1 2 infestation of Eastern Red Cedar, at which time the county assessor may reassess the property and assign a different classification. Ιf 1 3 the county assessor verifies that the property is free of 1 4 infestation and has assigned a classification other than timber 1 5 waste the property owner may apply for the in lieu tax treatment 1 6 pursuant to this section. 1 7

D. An owner of qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property who has removed the infestation may apply for the in lieu tax treatment for a single tax year pursuant to this section.

E. A total of not more than three hundred thousand (300,000) acres of qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property statewide shall be approved during any one (1) tax year for the in lieu tax treatment. Prior to approval of an application by an owner of qualifying

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Eastern Red Cedar property for the in lieu tax treatment, the county assessor shall report the number of acres seeking the in lieu tax treatment to the Oklahoma Tax Commission and verify with the Commission that the statewide cap of three hundred thousand (300,000) acres has not been met. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall keep a record of the total number of acres approved statewide during each tax year.

F. Beginning January 1, 2016, an owner of qualifying Eastern 8 Red Cedar property that has been approved pursuant to subsection D 9 of this section who then files an election with the county assessor 1 0 of the county in which the property is located to be subject to the 1 1 1 2 in lieu tax payment requirements imposed by this section shall be subject to an in lieu tax which shall be levied at the rate of One 1 3 Dollar (\$1.00) per acre of qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property for 1 4 the applicable tax year. An election authorized by this subsection 1 5 shall be filed not later than March 15 of the applicable tax year. 1 6 Once the election to be subject to the in lieu tax treatment 1 7 provided by this section has been filed, it shall be irrevocable and 1 8 the in lieu tax treatment for the applicable tax year shall not be 1 9 subject to modification. 2 0

G. The in lieu tax payment required by this section shall be paid to the county treasurer of the county or counties in which qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property is located not later than December 1 of the applicable tax year.

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H. The revenue derived from the in lieu tax required by this section shall be apportioned by the county treasurer each year based upon the ratio that the millage levy of each local taxing jurisdiction in which the qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property is located bears to the total amount of all millage levies imposed by all local taxing jurisdictions in which the qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property is located. The provisions of this subsection shall be applicable to general fund millage levies, building fund millage levies and sinking fund millage levies imposed each year.

I. The payment of the tax imposed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be in lieu of any and all ad valorem taxes that would otherwise be imposed as a result of the millage levied against the taxable value of the qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property for the applicable tax year.

J. If qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property is subject to the in lieu tax payment required by the provisions of this section, the qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property owner shall not be eligible for the exemption for qualifying manufacturing concerns otherwise authorized pursuant to Section 2902 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

K. If the in lieu tax payment required by this section is not paid by December 31 of the applicable tax year, the principal amount of the in lieu tax payment shall bear interest at the rate of fifteen percent (15%) per annum and there shall be imposed an

additional penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each month after December that the in lieu tax is not paid. The penalty shall accrue at the end of each month if the in lieu tax has not been paid as of that date. Interest and penalty shall be apportioned in the same manner as prescribed by this section for the principal amount of the in lieu tax payment.

SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 2805, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 2805. The following fees or taxes levied by the provisions of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be in lieu of ad valorem tax, whether in lieu of real property tax, personal property tax, or both as provided by law:

The registration fees and taxes imposed upon aircraft by
 Section 251 et seq. of Title 3 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. Registration fees for motor vehicles as provided in Section 16 1103 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes, except as otherwise specifically provided;

3. The fee imposed upon transfers of used vehicles in lieu of the ad valorem tax upon inventories of used motor vehicles by Section 1137.1 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

4. The registration and license fees imposed upon vessels and motors pursuant to the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act, Section 4001 et seq. of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

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5. The taxes levied upon the gross production of substances 1 pursuant to Section 1001 of this title; 2 The taxes levied upon the gross production of substances 6. pursuant to Section 1020 of this title; 4 7. The tax imposed upon gross receipts pursuant to Section 1803 of this title; The tax imposed upon certain textile products pursuant to 8. Section 2001 of this title; 8 9. The tax imposed upon certain freight cars pursuant to 9 Section 2202 of this title; 1 0 10. The tax imposed on certain parts of the inventories, both 1 1 new and used items, owned and/or possessed for sale by retailers of 1 2 farm tractors and other equipment pursuant to Sections ± 5401 1 3 through 4 5404 of this act title; 1 4 The tax imposed upon inventories of new vehicles and 1 5 11. certain vessels pursuant to Section 5301 of this title; and 1 6 12. The tax imposed on qualifying Eastern Red Cedar property 1 7 pursuant to Section 12 of this act; and 1 8 13. Such other fees or taxes as may be expressly provided by 1 9 law to be in lieu of ad valorem taxation. 2 0 SECTION 14. A new section of law to be codified NEW LAW 2 1 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2357.501 of Title 68, unless 2 2 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 2 3

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A. For tax years beginning before January 1, 2025, there shall be allowed a one-time credit against the income tax imposed by Section 2355 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes for qualified biomass fuel property expenditures and qualified biomass heating property expenditure made after December 31, 2014.

B. As used in this section:

1. "Qualified biomass fuel property expenditure" means an expenditure for property which:

- a. uses the burning of biomass fuel to heat a dwelling
   unit located in the state and used as a residence by
   the taxpayer, or to heat water for use in such a
   dwelling unit, and
- b. has a thermal efficiency rating of at least seventyfive percent (75%) as measured by the higher heating value of the fuel;

"Qualified biomass heating property expenditure" means an 2. 1 6 expenditure for open-loop biomass heating property, including 1 7 boilers or furnaces which operate at a thermal output efficiency of 1 8 not less than sixty-five percent (65%) as measured by the higher 1 9 heating value of the fuel and which provides thermal energy in the 2 0 form of heat, hot water or steam for space heating, air 2 1 conditioning, domestic hot water or industrial-process heat; and 2 2 3. "Biomass fuel" means any plant-derived fuel available on a 2 3 renewable or recurring basis, including agricultural crops and 2 4

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trees, wood, wood waste, wood residues and plants including aquatic plants, grasses, residues, and fibers. The term shall include densified biomass fuels such as wood pellets.

C. The credit provided for in subsection A of this section shall be:

For qualified biomass fuel property expenditures as defined
 in paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section, thirty percent (30%)
 of the cost of the qualified biomass fuel property expenditure; and

<sup>9</sup> 2. For qualified biomass heating property expenditures as
 <sup>10</sup> defined in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section, thirty
 <sup>11</sup> percent (30%) of the cost of the qualified biomass heating property
 <sup>12</sup> expenditure.

D. If the tax credit allowed pursuant to subsection A of this section exceeds the amount of income taxes due or if there are no state income taxes due on the income of the taxpayer, the amount of the credit not used as an offset against the income taxes of a taxable year may be carried forward as a credit against subsequent income tax liability for a period not to exceed five (5) years.

E. A husband and wife who file separate returns for a taxable year in which they could have filed a joint return may each claim only one-half (1/2) of the tax credit that would have been allowed for a joint return.

F. The Oklahoma Tax Commission is herein empowered to promulgate rules by which the purpose of this section shall be

administered, including the power to establish and enforce penalties for violations thereof.

SECTION 15. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-3-101 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: Sections 15 and 16 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Woody Biomass Energy Initiative Act of 2015". SECTION 16. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-3-102 of Title 27A, unless 9 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 1 0 The Legislature makes the following findings: Α. 1 1 That Oklahoma has an abundance of biomass which is defined 1. 1 2 as organic material that is available on a renewable or recurring 1 3 basis including: 1 4 materials, precommercial thinnings, or invasive a. 1 5 species from National Forest System land, Department 1 6 of Defense lands or public lands, as defined by law, 1 7 that: 1 8 are byproducts of preventive treatments or are (1) 1 9 removed to reduce hazardous fuels, to reduce or 2 0 contain disease or insect infestation or to 2 1 restore ecosystem health, 2 2 would not otherwise be used for higher-value (2) 2 3 products, and 2 4

1		(3) are harvested in accordance with applicable law
2		and a state or federally approved sustainable
3		forest management plan,
4	b.	plant material from nonfederal land or land belonging
5		to a Native American or Native Tribe that is held in
6		trust by the United States or subject to a restriction
7		against alienation imposed by the United States,
8		including:
9		(1) feed grains,
1 0		(2) other agricultural commodities,
1 1		(3) other plants and trees harvested in accordance
1 2		with applicable law and a state or federally
1 3		approved sustainable forest management plan, and
14		(4) algae, and
1 5	с.	residual material from nonfederal land or land
1 6		belonging to a Native American or Native Tribe that is
1 7		held in trust by the United States or subject to a
1 8		restriction against alienation imposed by the United
1 9		States, including:
2 0		(1) crop residue,
2 1		(2) other vegetative material including wood waste
2 2		and wood residues,
2 3		(3) animal waste and byproducts including fats, oils,
2 4		greases, and manure,

- (4) gas derived from the biodegradation of solid waste, and
  - (5) the organic portion of municipal solid materials including all cellulosic residuals segregated from waste material, food waste, wastewater treatment plants and yard waste;

That for purposes of the Oklahoma Woody Biomass Energy
 Initiative Act of 2015, "woody biomass" means a material derived
 from trees, shrubs, bushes, grasses including switch grass,
 miscanthus or products made from woody plants;

3. That the Juniperus Virginiana, commonly known as the Eastern Red Cedar tree, is a native tree which, due to conditions, is encroaching upon ecosystems outside of its historic habitat at a rate of seven hundred (700) acres per day in Oklahoma, contributing to loss of water, grazing lands and wildlife habitat, fire loss and allergic illness;

4. That the objectives of the provisions of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Act do not include the development of a specific biomass energy use plan, but are specifically to assist state and private landowners with gaining information regarding the control of the Eastern Red Cedar tree and to provide educational support;

5. That woody biomass is a renewable energy source which can be used to diversify the energy portfolio of the state when converted to fuel known as biofuel and which can be pelleted or liquefied to

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mix with natural gas and coal and burned in energy-efficient
boilers;

6. That based on a per million British Thermal Unit (BTU) by fuel type, the rates for biofuel from woody biomass averaged in 2010 Two Dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) for wood chips with forty percent (40%) moisture as compared with electricity which averaged Sixteen Dollars and fifty cents (\$16.50);

7. That in order for biofuel projects to be successful, there must be a sustainable supply of woody biomass and a well-developed supply-chain formula, making cover crops of switch grass or plants such as miscanthus that can be harvested and pelletized an essential part of the woody biomass statewide plan;

8. That harvested woody biomass can be produced for use as chips, pellets and other forms which have energy values higher than all traditional fuel sources, with Eastern Red Cedar having a considerably higher BTU value;

9. That nearly every state in the United States now has some 1 7 type of public woody biomass project operating in either pilot 1 8 project or full-functioning form, with most focusing on the use of 1 9 woody biomass as an economical energy resource or as a means to 2 0 reduce energy costs for public facilities and state agencies which 2 1 now account for nearly two-thirds (2/3) of all energy produced; 2 2 That under Section 35-206 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma 10. 2 3 Statutes the expenditure of funds for the purpose of conservation of 2 4

electricity or natural gas by public agencies is in the public
interest; and

11. That in Oklahoma woody biomass could be used to reduce
 energy costs for public facilities such as the state correctional
 facilities, and all other public facilities. The Department of
 Corrections paid these high energy costs while at the same time
 employees at the correctional facilities were forced to undergo
 furloughs and staffing reductions. Further, the Department of
 Corrections is authorized under Section 222 of Title 57 of the
 Oklahoma Statutes to use prisoners on public purpose projects
 including harvesting Eastern Red Cedar trees.

B. There is hereby created to continue until July 1, 2018, the Woody Biomass Energy Initiative Council.

C. The Council shall be composed of members as follows: A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

A member of the State Senate, appointed by the President Pro
 Tempore of the State Senate;

3. Two members who are engaged in the business of manufacturing
or selling biofuel furnaces, one member to be appointed by the
Speaker of the House of Representatives and one member to be
appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate;
4. The Eastern Red Cedar Registry Coordinator;

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5. The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, or designee;

6. An employee in the Forestry Services Division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture;

7. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or designee;
 8. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, or
 designee;

9. A member appointed by the Director of the Oklahoma State
 <sup>1</sup> Energy Office within the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and
 <sup>1</sup> representing the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council;

1 2 10. A member of the Corporation Commission, or designee; 1 3 11. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation 1 4 Commission, or designee;

1 5 12. A member appointed by and representing the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture;

13. A member appointed by and representing the United States
19. Environmental Protection Agency; and

14. A member appointed by and representing the United States
 Department of Energy.

D. Appointments to the Council shall be made within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. Meetings of the Council shall be held at least quarterly at the call of the chair. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. A
 majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to
 transact business, but no vacancy shall impair the right of the
 remaining members to exercise all of the powers of the Council. A
 vacancy on the Council shall be filled by the original appointing
 authority. Contingent upon the availability of funding, the
 Department of Environmental Quality shall provide staff, support and
 information as requested by the Council.

E. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for serving on the Council, but contingent upon the availability of funding shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

State employees who are members of the Council shall be
 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
 duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State
 Travel Reimbursement Act;

2. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

3. All other members of the Council shall be reimbursed by the Department of Environmental Quality for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

F. The Council shall act in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

G. The Council shall:

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1. Develop an Oklahoma Renewable Woody Biomass Energy Usage 1 Plan which will:

- include appropriate harvesting and fuel burning a. quidelines, equipment and techniques that are in compliance with any laws governing the use of biomass for energy production,
  - b. include recommendations for the creation of an adequate supply chain and adequate levels of available biomass from naturally occurring or cultivated cover crops,
- с. take into consideration all environmental quality and 1 1 energy standards, 1 2

d. include a funding plan for utilization,

- identify state lands suitable for use in the e. production of biomass, and 1 5
- identify available private resources to implement the f. 1 6 plan, including resources for implementing the duties 1 7 of the Office of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry 1 8 Coordinator: 1 9

Investigate the feasibility of constructing and installing 2. 2 0 woody biomass furnaces in correctional facilities operated by the 2 1 Department of Corrections, public schools, and other state agencies, 2 2 which furnaces can use woody biomass harvested exclusively within 2 3 Oklahoma from state and private lands; 2 4

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3. Investigate the feasibility of using woody biomass for the purpose of blending with natural gas, coal, cogeneration or gasification methods, as well as other emerging applications; and

4. Make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on the findings of the Council.

H. The Council is hereby authorized to make application for,
 seek and utilize any funds received including, but not limited to,
 any state or federal funds, grants including renewable energy grants
 available through the United States Department of Energy and the
 United States Department of Agriculture, or private donations.

 SECTION 17.
 AMENDATORY
 74 O.S. 2011, Section 85.44D, as

 amended by Section 757, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (74 O.S. Supp.

 2014, Section 85.44D), is amended to read as follows:

Section 85.44D A. It is the intent of the Legislature that all state agencies procure and use products or materials made from or utilizing materials from trees harvested in Oklahoma when such products or materials are available.

B. By July 1, 2011 November 1, 2015, the Purchasing Division of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services when accepting bids for state purchases of products and materials shall give preference to the suppliers of wood products made from or products manufactured utilizing materials from trees harvested in Oklahoma if the price for the products and materials is not substantially higher than the

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price for other wood products and materials and the quality and grade requirements are otherwise comparable.

C. <u>The Purchasing Division of the Office of Management and</u> <u>Enterprise Services shall register any manufacturer of products made</u> <u>from trees harvested in Oklahoma which is registered with the Office</u> <u>of the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Coordinator on the central</u> <u>purchasing vendor registration system for state agency purchasing,</u> <u>in the appropriate category or categories of commodities. The</u> <u>Division shall waive any registration fee for the manufacturer for</u> the first year of registration.

<u>D.</u> By July 1, 2011, the Purchasing Division of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall promulgate rules and implement a program for extending state procurement specifications to products made from or manufactured utilizing materials from trees harvested in Oklahoma and identifying the products.

SECTION 18. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2012 (17 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 802.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 802.2 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Energy Initiative, referred to in this act as the Initiative, which shall serve as a strategic program designed to create, advance, and promote new and existing energy research and development efforts related to Oklahoma's core energy competencies by:

Promoting research and development in the areas of
 conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas development and
 production, CO<sub>2</sub> enhanced oil recovery, wind forecasting, advanced
 biofuels, <u>biofuels from woody biomass</u>, energy storage, water
 management, energy policy and economic analysis, energy system
 optimization, renewable energy integration into the electrical grid,
 and similar energy technologies;

8 2. Fostering communication and collaboration between state and
 9 federal governmental agencies, institutions of higher education,
 10 nonprofit research institutions, and private entities located
 11 throughout Oklahoma;

3. Advancing research and development programs that provide benefits to all industries and regions of the state;

4. Streamlining research and development efforts between private and public industry to create synergistic relationships that coordinate, not duplicate, research efforts;

5. Establishing Oklahoma as a regional resource and clearinghouse for transformative energy technologies in the areas of traditional energy and renewable resource research and development;

6. <u>Developing a renewable woody biomass energy usage plan that</u> will include appropriate harvesting and fuel-burning guidelines and techniques for the use of biomass for energy production;

2 3 <u>7.</u> Attracting best-in-class researchers to Oklahoma in 2 4 competency areas aligned with Oklahoma's natural resource base;

7. 8. Coordinating with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to enhance venture capital investment in energy-related research and business opportunities; and

8. 9. Promoting seed funding that can be leveraged against state, federal, and private-source funding to establish sufficient startup resources.

The Initiative may receive assistance from any state agency Β. or public entity to implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Energy 8 Initiative Act, including, but not limited to, administrative 9 assistance, staffing or legal counsel and provision of office space 1 0 or equipment as necessary. Assistance agreements may be made by 1 1 memorandums of understanding or as otherwise provided by law. 1 2 SECTION 19. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 247, O.S.L. 1 3 2012, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2014 (17 O.S. 1 4 Supp. 2014, Section 802.3), is amended to read as follows: 1 5 Section 802.3 A. The Oklahoma Energy Initiative shall be 1 6 administered and governed by the Oklahoma Energy Initiative Board, 1 7 made up of representatives of the contributing institutions of the 1 8 Initiative which initially shall be the University of Oklahoma, 1 9 Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City University, the University 2 0 of Tulsa, and the Noble Foundation. Additional contributing 2 1 institutions may be added at the discretion of the Board, as such 2 2 institutions contribute to the purpose, objectives and research 2 3

coordinated by the Initiative. Additional contributing institutions

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may include state, federal, and private agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit research institutions, and private entities.

B. The Board shall initially consist of six (6) thirteen (13) members as follows:

I. One member, who shall serve as the chair of the Board, shall
 be the Secretary of Energy and Environment or a member otherwise
 appointed by the Governor;

One member shall be the Vice President of Research from the
 University of Oklahoma or a member otherwise appointed by the
 President of the University of Oklahoma;

3. One member shall be the Vice President of Research from
 Oklahoma State University or a member otherwise appointed by the
 President of Oklahoma State University;

4. One member shall be the Vice President of Research from the University of Tulsa or a member otherwise appointed by the Governor;

5. One member shall be the Vice President of Research from Oklahoma City University or a member otherwise appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

6. One member who shall represent the Samuel Roberts Noble
 Foundation appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
 <u>7. One member shall be an employee of the Oklahoma Department</u>
 <u>of Commerce appointed by the Director of the Oklahoma Department of</u>
 Commerce;

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8. One member shall have experience in the financing of public 1 development projects to be appointed by the Governor; 2 9. One member shall have experience in marketing to be appointed by the Governor; 4 10. Two members who have served on a board of directors of a nonprofit entity and who have experience in strategic planning and 6 board development; and 11. Two members who have served on a board of directors of a 8 corporation located in Oklahoma who have experience in strategic 9 planning and board development. 1 0 C. Board members shall serve for a term of four (4) years, 1 1 which shall begin on January 1 of the first year of the appointment 1 2 and end on December 31 of the fourth year. There shall be no limit 1 3 to the number of consecutive terms served. If a vacancy should 1 4 occur during a member's term, the appointing authority for the 1 5 vacant position shall appoint a new member to fill the remainder of 1 6 the unexpired term. Board members shall serve without compensation 1 7 but may be eligible for necessary travel expenses pursuant to the 1 8 State Travel Reimbursement Act. 1 9

D. The Board shall be responsible for establishing procedures for the Initiative and operations of the Board. The rules may provide for protection from public disclosure of trade secrets and proprietary information of any kind, including, but not limited to, data, processes and technology, as the Board determines necessary. E. The Board shall undertake activities and commission programs, through the contributing institutions, to achieve the purpose and satisfy the objectives of the Initiative as provided in the Oklahoma Energy Initiative Act. <u>The Board shall establish a</u> <u>working group of members which shall be responsible for developing</u> <u>the renewable woody biomass energy usage plan.</u> The Board shall have authority to distribute funding for such activities and programs. The Board may employ staff as it deems necessary.

F. The Board shall prepare an annual, written report to summarize the annual progress of the Initiative, including summaries of its programs and their progress and outcomes. The report shall be made available to the public and shall be distributed to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

G. The provisions of The Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act shall not apply to any project, activity or contract of the Initiative or the Board.

H. No Board member or any person acting on behalf of the Board or Initiative executing any contracts, commitments or agreements issued by or on behalf of the Oklahoma Energy Initiative shall be personally liable for the contracts, commitments, or agreements or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason thereof. No director or any person acting on behalf of the Board

or Initiative shall be personally liable for damage or injury resulting from the performance of duties hereunder.

SECTION 20. REPEALER 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-405, is
 hereby repealed.

SECTION 21. RECODIFICATION 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-401, as amended by Section 1 of this act, shall be recodified as Section 5-1-101 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is created a duplication in numbering.

SECTION 22. RECODIFICATION 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-402,
 shall be recodified as Section 5-1-102 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma
 Statutes, unless there is created a duplication in numbering.

SECTION 23. RECODIFICATION 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-403, as amended by Section 3 of this act, shall be recodified as Section 5-1-103 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is created a duplication in numbering.

SECTION 24. RECODIFICATION 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-404, as amended by Section 4 of this act, shall be recodified as Section 5-1-104 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is created a duplication in numbering.

SECTION 25. RECODIFICATION 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-406, as amended by Section 5 of this act, shall be recodified as Section 5-1-105 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is created a duplication in numbering.

1	SECTION 26. RECODIFICATION 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-407,
2	as last amended by Section 6 of this act, shall be recodified as
3	Section 5-1-106 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there
4	is created a duplication in numbering.
5	SECTION 27. RECODIFICATION 2 O.S. 2011, Section 18-408,
6	as amended by Section 7 of this act, shall be recodified as Section
7	5-1-107 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is
8	created a duplication in numbering.
9	SECTION 28. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.
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