

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 SENATE BILL 1331

By: Sparks

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to multicounty agent bondsmen;
7 amending 59 O.S. 2011, Sections 1301, as amended by
8 Section 1, Chapter 53, O.S.L. 2014, 1302, 1306, as
9 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015,
10 Section 3, Chapter 53, O.S.L. 2014, as amended by
11 Section 2, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015, and as
12 renumbered by Section 13, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015,
13 1310, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 110,
14 O.S.L. 2015, 1311.3, as last amended by Section 5,
15 Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015, Section 13, Chapter 373,
16 O.S.L. 2014, 1314, as last amended by Section 6,
17 Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015, 1316, as last amended by
18 Section 8, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015, 1317, as last
19 amended by Section 9, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015, and
20 1328, as amended by Section 24, Chapter 407, O.S.L.
21 2014 (59 O.S. Supp. 2015, Sections 1301, 1306,
22 1306.1, 1310, 1311.3, 1311.4, 1314, 1316, 1317, and
23 1328), which relate to definitions, power of
24 Insurance Commissioner, professional bondsmen,
multicounty agent bondsmen, grounds for revocation of
license, unlawful acts, assisting other bondsmen,
fiduciary duties, signing bonds, appointment of
bondsmen, and procedure for surrender of defendant;
modifying definitions, clarifying language; modifying
qualifications for certain bondsman license;
modifying references; modifying grounds for
revocation of license; modifying certain exemption
provision; modifying qualifications for assisting
bondsmen; requiring certain records keeping; stating
period for record keeping; making gender neutral;
requiring certain fee for change of certain
information; requiring possession of license during
apprehension and surrender of defendant; and
providing an effective date.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1301, as
2 amended by Section 1, Chapter 53, O.S.L. 2014 (59 O.S. Supp. 2015,
3 Section 1301), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 1301. A. Sections 1301 through ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title
5 shall only apply to the regulation of bail bonds for crimes, the
6 punishment of which may be in excess of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) fine
7 or twenty (20) days in jail, or both such fine and imprisonment.

8 B. As used in Sections 1301 through ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title:

9 1. "Commissioner" means the Insurance Commissioner of the State
10 of Oklahoma;

11 2. "Clerk" means the district or municipal court clerk;

12 3. "Insurer" means any domestic, foreign or alien surety
13 company which has qualified generally to transact surety business
14 and specifically to transact bail bond business in this state and
15 any professional bondsman or multicounty agent bondsman;

16 4. "Bail bondsman" means a surety bondsman, professional
17 bondsman, multicounty agent bondsman, property bondsman, or a cash
18 bondsman as hereinafter defined;

19 5. "Surety bondsman" means any person who has been approved by
20 the Commissioner and appointed by an insurer ~~or a professional~~
21 ~~bondsman,~~ by power of attorney~~,~~ to execute or countersign bail bonds
22 for the insurer ~~or a professional bondsman,~~ in connection with
23 judicial proceedings and charges and receives money for his or her
24 services;

1 6. "Managing general agent" (M.G.A.) means any person acting in
2 the capacity of supervisor or manager over a licensed bondsman, who
3 has been granted the authority or responsibility by ~~a surety company~~
4 an insurer to conduct surety business on its behalf, and to oversee
5 the activities and conduct of the ~~surety's~~ insurer's appointed
6 licensed bondsman agents, and who generally functions as an
7 intermediate manager between the ~~surety~~ insurer and its licensed
8 bondsman agents. A ~~managing general agent~~ M.G.A. fulfilling these
9 functions shall be a natural person, shall meet the qualifications
10 of paragraph 5 of this subsection and shall be licensed as a
11 bondsman;

12 7. "Professional bondsman" means any person who has been
13 approved by the Commissioner and who pledges cash as security for a
14 bail bond in connection with a judicial proceeding and charges and
15 receives money for his or her services;

16 8. "Property bondsman" means any person who has been approved
17 by the Commissioner and who pledges real property as security for a
18 bail bond in a judicial proceeding and charges and receives money
19 for his or her services;

20 9. "Cash bondsman" means any person who has been approved by
21 the Commissioner and who deposits cash money as security for a bail
22 bond in a judicial proceeding and charges and receives money for his
23 or her services;

1 10. "Escrow deposit" means cash or valuable security deposited
2 by an insurer ~~of a surety bondsman or professional bondsman~~ to
3 secure the face amount of forfeiture pending appeal;

4 11. "Solicitation" means to ask for earnestly, seek to obtain
5 by persuasion or entreaty, implore, beseech, tempt or entice a
6 person directly or through another person by personal, mechanical,
7 printed or published means to purchase a bail bond. Solicitation
8 shall not include mass communication advertising, which shall
9 include, but not be limited to, television, newspapers, magazines
10 and billboards;

11 12. "Bond" means an appearance bond for a specified monetary
12 amount which is executed by the defendant and a licensed bondsman
13 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1301 et seq. of this title and
14 which is issued to a court clerk as security for the subsequent
15 court appearance of the defendant upon release from actual custody
16 pending the appearance; and

17 13. "Multicounty agent bondsman" means a professional bondsman
18 who has been approved by the Commissioner and who otherwise complies
19 with the provisions of Section ~~1306~~ 1306.1 of this title.

20 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1302, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 1302. A. The Insurance Commissioner shall have full
23 power and authority to administer the provisions of this act, which
24 regulates bail bondsmen and to that end to adopt, and promulgate

1 rules and regulations to enforce the purposes and provisions of this
2 act. The Commissioner may employ and discharge such employees,
3 examiners, counsel, and such other assistants as shall be deemed
4 necessary, and he shall prescribe their duties and their
5 compensation shall be the same as other state employees receive for
6 similar services.

7 B. Any written instrument purporting to be a copy of any
8 action, proceeding, or finding of fact by the Commissioner, or any
9 record of the seal of his office shall be accepted by all the courts
10 of this state as prima facie evidence of the contents thereof.

11 C. ~~Open and ongoing investigative~~ Investigative files shall not
12 be open for review unless so ordered by a proper administrative
13 order of the hearing examiner or Commissioner or by proper judicial
14 order or legislative committee.

15 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1306, as
16 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015 (59 O.S. Supp.
17 2015, Section 1306), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1306. A. 1. An applicant for a cash bondsman license
19 shall meet all requirements set forth in Section 1305 of this title
20 with exception of the one-year residence requirement. An applicant
21 for a cash bondsman license shall affirmatively show that the
22 applicant has been a bona fide resident of the state for six (6)
23 months.
24

1 2. In addition to the requirements prescribed in Section 1305
2 of this title, an applicant for a professional bondsman license
3 shall have been continuously licensed as a surety, cash or property
4 bondsman in this state for a minimum of two (2) years immediately
5 prior to the date of application, and shall submit to the Insurance
6 Commissioner an audited financial statement prepared by an
7 accounting firm or individual holding a permit to practice public
8 accounting in this state in accordance with the Statements on
9 Auditing Standards promulgated by the Auditing Standards Board of
10 the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants setting forth
11 the total assets of the bondsman less liabilities and debts as
12 follows: For all applications made prior to November 1, 2006, and
13 the subsequent renewals of a license issued upon the application
14 when continuously maintained in effect as required by law, the
15 statement shall show a net worth of at least Fifty Thousand Dollars
16 (\$50,000.00). For all applications made on and after November 1,
17 2006, and the subsequent renewals of a license issued upon the
18 application when continuously maintained in effect as required by
19 law, or for the renewal or reinstatement of any license that is
20 expired pursuant to subsection D of Section 1309 of this title,
21 suspended or revoked, the statement shall show a net worth of at
22 least One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00), the
23 statements to be current as of a date not earlier than ninety (90)
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1 days prior to submission of the application and the statement shall
2 be attested to by an unqualified opinion of the accountant.

3 3. Professional bondsman applicants shall make a deposit with
4 the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner in the same manner as required of
5 domestic insurance companies of an amount to be determined by the
6 Commissioner. For all applications made prior to November 1, 2006,
7 and the subsequent renewals of a license issued upon the application
8 when continuously maintained in effect as required by law, the
9 deposit shall not be less than Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).
10 For all applications made on and after November 1, 2006, and the
11 subsequent renewals of a license issued upon the application when
12 continuously maintained in effect as required by law, or for the
13 renewal or reinstatement of any license that is expired pursuant to
14 subsection D of Section 1309 of this title, suspended or revoked,
15 the deposit shall not be less than Fifty Thousand Dollars
16 (\$50,000.00). The deposits shall be subject to all laws, rules and
17 regulations as deposits by domestic insurance companies but in no
18 instance shall a professional bondsman write bonds which equal more
19 than ten times the amount of the deposit which the bondsman has
20 submitted to the Commissioner. Such deposit shall require the
21 review and approval of the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner prior to exceeding
22 the maximum amount of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation basic
23 deposit coverage for any one bank or financial institution. In
24 addition, a professional bondsman may make the deposit by purchasing

1 an annuity through a licensed domestic insurance company in the
2 State of Oklahoma. The annuity shall be in the name of the bondsman
3 as owner with legal assignment to the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner. The
4 assignment form shall be approved by the Commissioner. If a
5 bondsman exceeds the above limitation, the bondsman shall be
6 notified by the Commissioner that the excess shall be reduced or the
7 deposit increased within ten (10) days of notification, or the
8 license of the bondsman shall be suspended immediately after the
9 ten-day period, pending a hearing on the matter.

10 4. The deposit provided for in this section shall constitute a
11 reserve available to meet sums due on forfeiture of any bonds or
12 recognizance executed by the bondsman.

13 5. Any deposit made by a professional bondsman pursuant to this
14 section shall be released and returned by the Commissioner to the
15 professional bondsman only upon extinguishment of all liability on
16 outstanding bonds. Provided, however, the Commissioner shall have
17 the authority to review specific financial circumstances and history
18 of a professional bondsman, on a case-by-case basis, and may release
19 a portion of the deposit if warranted. The Commissioner may
20 promulgate rules to effectuate the provisions of this paragraph.

21 6. No release of deposits to a professional bondsman shall be
22 made by the Commissioner except upon written application and the
23 written order of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall have no
24

1 liability for any such release to a professional bondsman provided
2 the release was made in good faith.

3 B. The deposit provided in this section shall be held in
4 safekeeping by the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner and shall only be used if
5 a bondsman fails to pay an order and judgment of forfeiture after
6 being properly notified or shall be used if the license of a
7 professional bondsman has been revoked. The deposit shall be held
8 in the name of the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner and the bondsman. The
9 bondsman shall execute an assignment or pledge of the deposit to the
10 ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner for the payment of unpaid bond forfeitures.

11 C. Currently licensed professional bondsmen may maintain their
12 aggregate liability limits upon presentation of documented proof
13 that they have previously been granted a limitation greater than the
14 requirements of subsection A of this section.

15 D. Notwithstanding any other provision of Sections 1301 through
16 ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title, the license of a professional bondsman is
17 transferable upon the death or legal or physical incapacitation of
18 the bondsman to the spouse of the bondsman, or to such other
19 transferee as the professional bondsman may designate in writing,
20 and the transferee may elect to act as a professional bondsman for a
21 period of one hundred eighty (180) days if the following conditions
22 are met:

23 1. The transferee shall hold a valid license as a surety
24 bondsman in this state; and

1 2. The asset and deposit requirements set forth in this section
2 continue to be met.

3 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 53, O.S.L.
4 2014, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015, and as
5 renumbered by Section 13, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015 (59 O.S. Supp.
6 2015, Section 1306.1), is amended to read as follows:

7 Section 1306.1. A. 1. An applicant for a multicounty agent
8 bondsman license shall have been continually licensed as a
9 professional bondsman in the State of Oklahoma for a minimum of two
10 (2) years immediately prior to the date of application.

11 2. In addition to the requirements prescribed in Sections 1305
12 and 1306 of this title, an applicant for a multicounty agent
13 bondsman license shall submit to the Insurance Commissioner an
14 annual audited financial statement prepared by an accounting firm or
15 individual holding a permit to practice public accounting in this
16 state in accordance with the Statements on Auditing Standards
17 promulgated by the Auditing Standards Board of the American
18 Institute of Certified Public Accountants setting forth the total
19 assets of the bondsman less liabilities and debts. For initial
20 applications and for subsequent renewals of the license, the
21 statement shall show a net worth of at least Two Hundred Fifty
22 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00). The statement shall be current as
23 of a date not earlier than ninety (90) days prior to submission of
24

1 the application and the statement shall be attested to by an
2 unqualified opinion of the accountant.

3 3. Multicounty agent bondsman applicants shall make a deposit
4 with the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner in the same manner as required of
5 domestic insurance companies. The deposit shall not be less than
6 One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00). Provided however, any
7 and all deposits made pursuant to paragraph 3 of subsection A of
8 Section 1306 of this title shall count toward the fulfillment of any
9 deposit amount required by this section. The deposit shall be
10 subject to all laws, rules, and regulations as deposits by domestic
11 insurance companies but in no instance, except as provided herein,
12 shall a multicounty agent bondsman write bonds which equal more than
13 twelve times the amount of the deposit which the bondsman has
14 submitted to the Commissioner; provided however, any currently
15 licensed professional bondsman in good standing with the Department
16 and who, on the effective date of this act, meets the provisions of
17 the grandfather clause set forth in Section 1306 of this title and
18 who otherwise meets the requirements of this section shall be
19 afforded the same liability ratio as that of such grandfathered
20 professional bondsman. Such deposit shall require the review and
21 approval of the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner prior to exceeding the
22 maximum amount of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation basic
23 deposit coverage for any one bank or financial institution. In
24 addition, a multicounty agent bondsman may make the deposit by

1 purchasing an annuity through a licensed domestic insurance company
2 in the State of Oklahoma. The annuity shall be in the name of the
3 bondsman as owner with legal assignment to the ~~Insurance~~
4 Commissioner. The assignment form shall be approved by the
5 Commissioner. If a bondsman exceeds the above limitation, the
6 bondsman shall be notified by the Commissioner that the excess shall
7 be reduced or the deposit increased within ten (10) days of
8 notification, or the license of the bondsman shall be suspended
9 immediately after the ten-day period, pending a hearing on the
10 matter.

11 4. The deposit provided for in this section shall constitute a
12 reserve available to meet sums due on forfeiture of any bonds or
13 recognizance executed by the bondsman.

14 5. Any deposit made by a multicounty agent bondsman pursuant to
15 this section shall be released and returned by the Commissioner to
16 the multicounty agent bondsman only upon extinguishment of all
17 liability on outstanding bonds. Provided, however, the Commissioner
18 shall have the authority to review specific financial circumstances
19 and history of a multicounty agent bondsman, on a case-by-case
20 basis, and may release a portion of the deposit if warranted. The
21 Commissioner may promulgate rules to effectuate the provisions of
22 this paragraph.

23 6. No release of deposits to a multicounty agent bondsman shall
24 be made by the Commissioner except upon written application and the

1 written order of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall have no
2 liability for any such release to a multicounty agent bondsman
3 provided the release was made in good faith.

4 B. The deposit provided in this section shall be held in
5 safekeeping by the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner and shall only be used if
6 a bondsman fails to pay an order and judgment of forfeiture after
7 being properly notified or shall be used if the license of a
8 multicounty agent bondsman has been revoked. The deposit shall be
9 held in the name of the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner and the bondsman.
10 The bondsman shall execute an assignment or pledge of the deposit to
11 the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner for the payment of unpaid bond
12 forfeitures.

13 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of Sections 1301 through
14 ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title, the license of a multicounty agent bondsman
15 is transferable upon the death or legal or physical incapacitation
16 of the bondsman to the spouse of the bondsman or to such other
17 transferee as the multicounty agent bondsman may designate in
18 writing, and the transferee may elect to act as a multicounty agent
19 bondsman for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days if the
20 following conditions are met:

21 1. The transferee shall hold a valid license as a surety
22 bondsman in this state; and

23 2. The asset and deposit requirements set forth in this section
24 continue to be met.

1 At the end of the one-hundred-eighty-day period, the transferee
2 shall be allowed to apply for a license as a multicounty agent
3 bondsman, provided he or she has been continually licensed as a
4 surety bondsman for at least five (5) years immediately prior to the
5 date of application, notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph 1
6 of subsection A of this section.

7 D. A multicounty agent bondsman may appoint by power of
8 attorney a licensed surety bondsman as his or her agent to execute
9 bail bonds within any county in the State of Oklahoma. The number
10 of bail bonds a multicounty agent bondsman may insure in counties
11 other than the county he or she registers his or her license,
12 pursuant to subsection A of Section 1320 of this title, shall not be
13 limited by subsection B of Section 1320 of this title.

14 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1310, as
15 last amended by Section 4, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015 (59 O.S. Supp.
16 2015, Section 1310), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1310. A. The Insurance Commissioner may deny, censure,
18 suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under
19 Sections 1301 through ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title for any of the
20 following causes:

21 1. For any cause for which issuance of the license could have
22 been refused;

23 2. Violation of any laws of this state or any lawful rule,
24 regulation, or order of the Commissioner relating to bail;

1 3. Material misstatement, misrepresentation, or fraud in
2 obtaining the license;

3 4. Misappropriation, conversion, or unlawful withholding of
4 monies or property belonging to insurers, insureds, or others
5 received in the conduct of business under the license;

6 5. Conviction of, or having entered a plea of guilty or nolo
7 contendere to, any felony or to a misdemeanor involving moral
8 turpitude or dishonesty;

9 6. Fraudulent or dishonest practices or demonstrating financial
10 irresponsibility in conducting business under the license;

11 7. Failure to comply with, or violation of any proper order,
12 rule, or regulation of the Commissioner;

13 8. Recommending any particular attorney-at-law to handle a case
14 in which the bail bondsman has caused a bond to be issued under the
15 terms of Sections 1301 through ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title;

16 9. When, in the judgment of the Commissioner, the licensee has,
17 in the conduct of affairs under the license, demonstrated
18 incompetency, or untrustworthiness, or conduct or practices
19 rendering the licensee unfit to carry on the bail bond business or
20 making continuance in the business detrimental to the public
21 interest;

22 10. When the licensee is no longer in good faith carrying on
23 the bail bond business;

1 11. When the licensee is guilty of rebating, or offering to
2 rebate, or dividing with someone other than a licensed bail
3 bondsman, or offering to divide commissions in the case of limited
4 surety agents, or premiums in the case of professional bondsmen, and
5 for this conduct is found by the Commissioner to be a source of
6 detriment, injury, or loss to the public;

7 12. For any materially untrue statement in the license
8 application;

9 13. Misrepresentation of the terms of any actual or proposed
10 bond;

11 14. For forging the name of another to a bond or application
12 for bond;

13 15. Cheating on an examination for licensure;

14 16. Soliciting business in or about any place where prisoners
15 are confined, arraigned, or in custody;

16 17. For paying a fee or rebate, or giving or promising anything
17 of value to a jailer, trustee, police officer, law enforcement
18 officer, or other officer of the law, or any other person who has
19 power to arrest or hold in custody, or to any public official or
20 public employee in order to secure a settlement, compromise,
21 remission, or reduction of the amount of any bail bond or
22 estreatment thereof, or to secure delay or other advantage. This
23 shall not apply to a jailer, police officer, or officer of the law
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1 who is not on duty and who assists in the apprehension of a
2 defendant;

3 18. For paying a fee or rebating or giving anything of value to
4 an attorney in bail bond matters, except in defense of an action on
5 a bond;

6 19. For paying a fee or rebating or giving or promising
7 anything of value to the principal or anyone in the behalf of the
8 principal;

9 20. Participating in the capacity of an attorney at a trial or
10 hearing for one on whose bond the licensee is surety;

11 21. Accepting anything of value from a principal, other than
12 the premium; provided, the bondsman shall be permitted to accept
13 collateral security or other indemnity from the principal which
14 shall be returned immediately upon final termination of liability on
15 the bond and upon satisfaction of all terms, conditions, and
16 obligations contained within the indemnity agreement; provided,
17 however, a bondsman shall not refuse to return collateral or other
18 indemnity because of nonpayment of premium. Collateral security or
19 other indemnity required by the bondsman shall be reasonable in
20 relation to the amount of the bond;

21 22. Willful failure to return collateral security to the
22 principal when the principal is entitled thereto;

23 23. For failing to notify the Commissioner of a change of legal
24 name, residence address, business address, mailing address, e-mail

1 address, or telephone number within five (5) days after a change is
2 made, or failing to respond to a properly mailed notification within
3 a reasonable amount of time;

4 24. For failing to file a report as required by Section 1314 of
5 this title;

6 25. For filing a materially untrue monthly report;

7 26. For filing false affidavits regarding cancellation of the
8 appointment of an insurer;

9 27. Forcing the Commissioner to withdraw deposited monies to
10 pay forfeitures or any other outstanding judgments;

11 28. For failing to pay any fees to a district court clerk as
12 are required by this title or failing to pay any fees to a municipal
13 court clerk as are required by this title or by Section 28-127 of
14 Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

15 29. For uttering an insufficient or uncollected check or
16 electronic funds transfer to the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner for any
17 fees, fines or other payments received by the Commissioner from the
18 bail bondsman;

19 30. For failing to pay travel expenses for the return of the
20 defendant to custody once having guaranteed the travel expenses;

21 31. The Commissioner may also refuse to renew a licensed
22 bondsman for failing to file all outstanding monthly bail reports,
23 pay any outstanding fines, pay any outstanding monthly report
24

1 reviewal fees owed to the Commissioner, or respond to a current
2 order issued by the Commissioner;

3 32. For failing to accept or claim a certified mailing from the
4 Insurance Department or from any district or municipal court clerk,
5 addressed to the bondsman's mailing address on file with the
6 Insurance Department; and

7 33. For posting a bond for any defendant without first
8 obtaining a written or oral agreement with the defendant or cosigner
9 of the bond.

10 B. In addition to any applicable denial, censure, suspension,
11 or revocation of a license, any person violating any provision of
12 Sections 1301 through ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title may be subject to a
13 civil penalty of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)
14 nor more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for each
15 occurrence. This fine may be enforced in the same manner in which
16 civil judgments may be enforced. Any order for civil penalties
17 entered by the Commissioner or authorized decision maker for the
18 Insurance Department which has become final may be filed with the
19 court clerk of Oklahoma County and shall then be enforced by the
20 judges of Oklahoma County.

21 C. No bail bondsman or bail bond agency shall advertise as or
22 hold itself out to be a surety company.

23 D. If any bail bondsman is convicted by any court of a
24 violation of any of the provisions of this act, the license of the

1 individual shall therefore be deemed to be immediately revoked,
2 without any further procedure relative thereto by the Commissioner.

3 E. For one (1) year after notification by the Commissioner of
4 an alleged violation, or for two (2) years after the last day the
5 person was licensed, whichever is the lesser period of time, the
6 Commissioner shall retain jurisdiction as to any person who cancels
7 his bail bondsman's license or allows the license to lapse, or
8 otherwise ceases to be licensed, if the person while licensed as a
9 bondsman allegedly violated any provision of this title. Notice and
10 opportunity for hearing shall be conducted in the same manner as if
11 the person still maintained a bondsman's license. If the
12 Commissioner or a hearing examiner determines that a violation of
13 the provisions of Sections 1301 through ~~1340~~ 1341 of this title
14 occurred, any order issued pursuant to the determination shall
15 become a permanent record in the file of the person and may be used
16 if the person should request licensure or reinstatement.

17 F. Any law enforcement agency, district attorney's office,
18 court clerk's office, or insurer that is aware that a licensed bail
19 bondsman has been convicted of or has pleaded guilty or nolo
20 contendere to any crime shall notify the ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner of
21 that fact.

22 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1311.3, as
23 last amended by Section 5, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015 (59 O.S. Supp.
24 2015, Section 1311.3), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 1311.3. A. It shall be unlawful for any person whose
2 license to act as a bail bondsman has been suspended, revoked,
3 surrendered, or refused, to do or perform any of the acts of a bail
4 bondsman. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this
5 subsection shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by a
6 fine in an amount not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

7 B. It shall be unlawful for any bail bondsman to assist, aid,
8 or conspire with a person whose license as a bail bondsman has been
9 suspended, revoked, surrendered, or refused, to engage in any acts
10 as a bail bondsman. Any person convicted of violating the
11 provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and shall
12 be punished by a fine in an amount not to exceed Five Thousand
13 Dollars (\$5,000.00).

14 C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a ~~person~~
15 ~~whose suspended or formerly licensed bail bondsman license is~~
16 ~~suspended or revoked in this state and who continues to submit~~
17 ~~monthly reports to the Insurance Department pursuant to subsection B~~
18 ~~of Section 1314 of this title or who contracts with a licensed bail~~
19 enforcer pursuant to the Bail Enforcement and Licensing Act to cause
20 the apprehension and surrender of his or her defendant clients to
21 the appropriate authority. The defendant client must have a current
22 undertaking or bail contract with the ~~person whose suspended or~~
23 ~~formerly licensed bail bondsman license is suspended or revoked and~~
24 such undertaking or bail contract must have been made in this state

1 by the ~~person whose license is now suspended or revoked~~ suspended or
2 formerly licensed bail bondsman. No acts other than ~~contracting~~
3 ~~with a licensed bail enforcer to surrender a defendant client to the~~
4 ~~appropriate authority~~ those listed in this subsection shall be
5 authorized or recognized after a bail bondsman ~~license is suspended~~
6 ~~or revoked~~ is suspended or no longer licensed in this state.

7 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY Section 13, Chapter 373, O.S.L.
8 2014 (59 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 1311.4), is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 Section 1311.4. Notwithstanding any provision of the Bail
11 Enforcement and Licensing Act to the contrary, a licensed ~~bondsman~~
12 bondsman in this state, for purposes of apprehension and surrender
13 of his or her client whose undertaking or bail contract was written
14 by the licensed bondsman, may seek assistance from, or provide
15 assistance to, another licensed bondsman in this state or another
16 state ~~for purposes of apprehension and surrender of their defendant~~
17 ~~client whose undertaking or bail contract was written by the~~
18 ~~licensed bondsman or a bondsman appointed by an insurer doing~~
19 ~~business in this state; provided, the licensed bondsmen have~~
20 assisting bondsman:

21 1. Has held a continuously valid licensed bail bondsman license
22 in this state for five (5) or more years ~~beginning the effective~~
23 ~~date of this act~~ immediately prior to providing such assistance, or
24

1 2. Is duly appointed by the same insurer as the licensed
2 bondsman seeking assistance.

3 The bondsman licensed in this state who is seeking assistance
4 shall be required to obtain and maintain proof of the ~~other~~
5 assisting bondsman's valid license and license duration requirement
6 prior to permitting such ~~person~~ assisting bondsman to engage in any
7 act requiring a license in this state.

8 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1314, as
9 last amended by Section 6, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015 (59 O.S. Supp.
10 2015, Section 1314), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 1314. A. When a bail bondsman or managing general
12 agent accepts collateral, the bail bondsman or managing general
13 agent shall give a written receipt for same, and this receipt shall
14 give in detail a full description of the collateral received. A
15 description of the collateral shall be listed on the undertaking by
16 affidavit. All property taken as collateral, whether personal,
17 intangible or real, shall be receipted for and deemed, for all
18 purposes, to be in the name of, and for the use and benefit of, the
19 ~~surety company or licensed professional bondsman or multicounty~~
20 ~~agent bondsman, as the case may be~~ insurer. Every receipt,
21 encumbrance, mortgage or other evidence of the custody, possession
22 or claim shall facially indicate that it has been taken or made on
23 behalf of the ~~surety company or professional bondsman or multicounty~~
24 ~~agent bondsman~~ insurer through its authorized agent, the individual

1 licensed bondsman or managing general agent who has transacted the
2 undertaking with the bond principal. Any mortgage or other
3 encumbrance against real property taken under the provisions of this
4 section which does not indicate beneficial ownership of the claim to
5 be in favor of the ~~surety company or professional bondsman or~~
6 ~~multicounty agent bondsman~~ insurer shall be deemed to constitute a
7 cloud on the title to real estate and shall subject the person
8 filing, or causing same to be filed, in the real estate records of
9 the county, to a penalty of treble damages or One Thousand Dollars
10 (\$1,000.00), whichever is greater, in an action brought by the
11 person, organization or corporation injured thereby. For collateral
12 taken, or liens or encumbrances taken or made pursuant to the
13 provisions of this section, the individual bondsman or managing
14 general agent taking possession of the property or making the lien,
15 claim or encumbrance shall do so on behalf of the ~~surety company or~~
16 ~~professional bondsman or multicounty agent bondsman~~ insurer, as the
17 case may be, and the individual licensed bondsman shall be deemed to
18 act in the capacity of fiduciary in relation to both:

19 1. The principal or other person from whom the property is
20 taken or claimed against; and

21 2. The ~~surety company or professional bondsman or multicounty~~
22 ~~agent bondsman~~ insurer whose agent is the licensed bondsman.

23 As fiduciary and bailee for hire, the individual bondsman shall
24 be liable in criminal or civil actions at law for failure to

1 properly receipt or account for, maintain or safeguard, release or
2 deliver possession upon lawful demand, in addition to any other
3 penalties set forth in this subsection. No person who takes
4 possession of property as collateral pursuant to this section shall
5 use or otherwise dissipate the asset, or do otherwise with the
6 property than to safeguard and maintain its condition pending its
7 return to its lawful owner, or deliver to the ~~surety company or~~
8 ~~professional bondsman~~ insurer, upon lawful demand pursuant to the
9 terms of the bailment.

10 B. Every licensed bondsman shall file monthly electronically
11 with the Insurance Commissioner and on forms approved by the
12 Commissioner as follows:

13 1. A monthly report showing every bond written, amount of bond,
14 whether released or revoked during each month, showing the court and
15 county, and the style and number of the case, premiums charged and
16 collateral received; and

17 2. Professional bondsmen and multicounty agent bondsmen shall
18 submit electronic monthly reports showing total current liabilities,
19 all bonds written during the month by the professional bondsman or
20 multicounty agent bondsman and by any licensed bondsman who may
21 countersign for the professional bondsman or multicounty agent
22 bondsman, all bonds terminated during the month, and the total
23 liability and a list of all bondsmen currently employed by the
24 professional bondsman or multicounty agent bondsman.

1 Monthly reports shall be submitted electronically to the
2 ~~Insurance~~ Commissioner by the fifteenth day of each month. The
3 records shall be maintained by the Commissioner as public records.

4 C. Every licensee shall keep at the place of business of the
5 licensee the usual and customary records pertaining to transactions
6 authorized by the license. All of the records shall be available
7 and open to the inspection of the Commissioner at any time during
8 business hours during the three (3) years immediately following the
9 date of the transaction the bondsman's liability on the bond is
10 discharged by the court or the date collateral is returned by the
11 bondsman to its lawful owner, whichever is later. If an appearance
12 bond is never executed and filed with the court, then all records
13 shall be maintained for three (3) years immediately following the
14 date the documents were prepared. The Commissioner may require a
15 financial examination or market conduct survey during any
16 investigation of a licensee.

17 D. Each bail bondsman shall submit each month with the monthly
18 report of the bondsman, a renewal fee equal to two-tenths of one
19 percent (2/10 of 1%) of the new liability written for that month.
20 The fee shall be payable to the Insurance Commissioner who shall
21 deposit same with the State Treasurer.

22 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1316, as
23 last amended by Section 8, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015 (59 O.S. Supp.
24 2015, Section 1316), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 1316. A. 1. A bail bondsman shall neither sign nor
2 countersign in blank any bond, nor shall the bondsman give a power
3 of attorney to, or otherwise authorize, anyone to countersign the
4 name of the bail bondsman to bonds unless the person so authorized
5 is a licensed surety bondsman or managing general agent appointed by
6 a licensed professional bondsman or multicounty agent bondsman
7 giving the power of attorney. The professional bondsman or
8 multicounty agent bondsman shall notify the Commissioner whenever
9 any appointment is canceled. If the bondsman surrenders the
10 professional or multicounty agent bondsman qualification, or the
11 professional or multicounty agent bondsman qualification is
12 suspended or revoked, or if ~~an insurer~~ a surety company authorized
13 to write bail bond business surrenders their bail surety line of
14 authority, or this line of authority is suspended or revoked, then
15 the Commissioner shall suspend the appointment of all of the bail
16 agents of the professional bondsman, multicounty agent bondsman or
17 ~~insurer~~ surety company. The Commissioner shall immediately notify
18 any bail agent whose license is affected and the court clerk of the
19 agent's resident county upon the suspension or revocation of the
20 qualification of the professional bondsman or multicounty agent
21 bondsman or surety company. If the professional or multicounty
22 agent bondsman qualification or the bail surety line of authority is
23 reinstated within twenty-four (24) hours, the Commissioner shall not
24 be required to suspend the bail agent appointments. If the

1 Commissioner reinstates the professional or multicounty agent
2 bondsman qualification or the bail surety line of authority within
3 twenty-four (24) hours, the Commissioner shall also reinstate the
4 appointment of the bail agents of the professional bondsman,
5 multicounty agent bondsman or ~~bail insurer~~ surety company. If more
6 than twenty-four (24) hours elapse following the suspension or
7 revocation, then the professional bondsman, multicounty agent
8 bondsman or ~~insurer~~ surety company shall submit new agent
9 appointments to the Commissioner.

10 2. Bail bondsmen shall not allow other licensed bondsmen to
11 present bonds that have previously been signed and completed. The
12 bail bondsman that presents the bond shall sign the form in the
13 presence of the official that receives the bond.

14 B. Premium charged shall be indicated on the appearance bond
15 prior to the filing of the bond.

16 C. 1. At the time ~~of~~ he or she receives payment for the
17 issuance of an appearance bond, a bail bondsman shall provide the
18 payor or indemnitors with a proper receipt and copies of any
19 agreements executed relating to the appearance bond.

20 2. Any receipt provided by a bondsman shall be individually
21 numbered and include:

- 22 a. the precise amount of the fees, premium, collateral,
23 or other payments received by the bondsman,
24

1 b. ~~copies of any agreements executed relating to the~~
2 ~~appearance bond,~~

3 ~~e.~~ the full name of the defendant,

4 ~~d.~~

5 c. the defendant's case number if it is available, and

6 ~~e.~~

7 d. full name of the individual(s) presenting the payment.

8 D. All surety bondsmen or managing general agents shall attach
9 a completed power of attorney to the appearance bond that is filed
10 with the court clerk on each bond written.

11 E. Any bond written in this state shall contain the name and
12 last-known mailing address of the bondsman and, if applicable, of
13 the insurer.

14 SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1317, as
15 last amended by Section 9, Chapter 110, O.S.L. 2015 (59 O.S. Supp.
16 2015, Section 1317), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1317. A. Every ~~surety, professional bondsman or~~
18 ~~multicounty agent bondsman~~ insurer who appoints a surety bondsman or
19 managing general agent in the state shall give notice thereof to the
20 Insurance Commissioner. The filing fee for appointment of each
21 surety bondsman or managing general agent shall be Ten Dollars
22 (\$10.00), payable to the Commissioner and shall be submitted with
23 the appointment. The appointment shall remain in effect until the
24 ~~surety, professional bondsman or multicounty agent bondsman~~ insurer

1 submits a notice of cancellation to the Commissioner, the license of
2 the bail bondsman expires, or the Commissioner cancels the
3 appointment. The Commissioner may cancel a bail surety appointment
4 if the license of the bondsman is suspended, revoked or nonrenewed.
5 ~~If the surety changes the liability limitations of the surety~~
6 ~~bondsman or the managing general agent, or any other provisions of~~
7 ~~the appointment~~ If there is a change in any information submitted by
8 the insurer on the appointment form, the ~~surety~~ insurer shall submit
9 an amended appointment form and a filing fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00)
10 payable to the Commissioner.

11 B. ~~A surety~~ An insurer terminating the appointment of a surety
12 bondsman or managing general agent immediately shall file written
13 notice thereof with the Commissioner, together with a statement that
14 it has given or mailed notice to the surety bondsman or managing
15 general agent. The notice filed with the Commissioner shall state
16 the reasons, if any, for the termination.

17 C. Prior to issuance of a new ~~surety~~ appointment for a surety
18 bondsman or managing general agent, the bondsman or agent shall file
19 an affidavit with the Commissioner stating that no forfeitures are
20 owed to any court, no fines or fees are owed to the Insurance
21 Department, and no premiums or indemnification for forfeitures or
22 fines are owed to any insurer, insureds, or others received in the
23 conduct of business under the license. If any statement made on the
24 affidavit is found by the Commissioner to be false, the Commissioner

1 may deny the new ~~surety~~ appointment, apply the sanctions set forth
2 in Section 1310 of this title or both. This provision shall not
3 require that all outstanding liabilities have been exonerated, but
4 may provide that the liabilities are still being monitored by the
5 bondsman or agent.

6 D. Every bail bondsman who negotiates and posts a bond shall,
7 in any controversy between the defendant, indemnitor, or guarantor
8 and the bail bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer, be regarded as representing
9 the ~~surety~~ insurer. This provision shall not affect the apparent
10 authority of a bail bondsman as an agent for the insurer.

11 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1328, as
12 amended by Section 24, Chapter 407, O.S.L. 2013 (59 O.S. Supp. 2015,
13 Section 1328), is amended to read as follows:

14 Section 1328. A. The bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer, or a licensed
15 bail enforcer pursuant to a client contract authorized by the Bail
16 Enforcement and Licensing Act, desiring to make a surrender of the
17 defendant shall procure or have in his or her possession a certified
18 copy of the undertakings and deliver such documents together with
19 the defendant to the official in whose custody the defendant was at
20 the time bail was taken, or to the official into whose custody he or
21 she would have been given had he or she been committed, who shall
22 detain the defendant in custody thereon, as upon a commitment, and
23 by a certificate in writing acknowledge the surrender.
24

1 Upon the presentation of a certified copy of the undertaking and
2 the certificate of the official, the court before which the
3 defendant has been held to answer, or the court in which the
4 preliminary examination, indictment, information or appeal is
5 pending, shall upon notice of three (3) days given by the person
6 making the surrender to the prosecuting officer of the court having
7 jurisdiction of the offense, together with a copy of the
8 undertakings and certificate, order that the obligors be exonerated
9 from liability on their undertakings; and, if money has been
10 deposited as bail, that such money or bonds be refunded. If
11 property pledged, a certificate of exoneration be issued and the
12 lien previously filed be released and the undertakings of whatever
13 nature be canceled.

14 If certified copies of bonds are not reasonably available, the
15 bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer may recommit the defendant to be held in
16 custody on the charges for which the bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer has
17 previously posted appearance bonds thereon in accordance with the
18 following procedure:

19 1. On a Recommitment of Defendant by Bondsman form approved by
20 the Administrative Office of the Courts, the bondsman or ~~surety~~
21 insurer shall personally affix his or her signature to an affidavit
22 attesting to the following:

- 23 a. the bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer has posted a bond or
24 bonds for the defendant and is hereby presented to the

1 official in whose custody the defendant was at the
2 time bail was taken,

3 b. the case number, if any, assigned to each bond, and

4 c. the specific charges and bond amount or amounts;

5 2. The bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer shall present the
6 Recommitment of Defendant by Bondsman form to the official in whose
7 custody the defendant is being surrendered, and the official shall
8 detain the defendant in his or her custody thereon, as upon a
9 commitment, and by a certificate in writing acknowledging the
10 surrender; and

11 3. When a bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer recommits a defendant
12 pursuant to this subsection, the bondsman or ~~surety~~ insurer shall
13 file a written notification thereof to the courts, and after such
14 notification, the bond or bonds shall be exonerated and the clerk
15 shall enter a minute in the case exonerating the bond or bonds.

16 B. Any bail bondsman engaged in the apprehension or surrender
17 of his or her client, and any bail bondsman assisting another
18 bondsman pursuant to Section 1311.4 of this title shall at all times
19 while engaged in the apprehension or surrender of the defendant have
20 his or her bail bondsman license in his or her possession, and shall
21 present the license to any law enforcement officer immediately upon
22 request.

23 SECTION 12. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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