

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

HOUSE BILL 2363

By: Cox

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to cigarette tax; amending 68 O.S. 2011, Section 360.9, which relates to the listing of nonparticipating manufacturers in the Oklahoma Tobacco Directory; deleting certain listing requirements; requiring certain nonparticipating manufacturer to post certain bond; listing conditions which if met require the filing of a bond; listing conditions for determining noncompliance; deleting certain bonding requirements; deleting criteria for determining noncompliance with certain laws; deleting certain definition; deleting bonding requirement for certain manufacturer; defining an affiliate; listing conditions a nonparticipating manufacturer shall meet to be included in the Oklahoma Tobacco Directory; establishing criteria and amount of bonds required of certain manufacturers; providing time period for posting a bond by certain manufacturers; authorizing execution of the bond for a certain amount upon the failure of a manufacturer to make a certain deposit; stating use of escrow amounts collected; authorizing the Attorney General to exclude a manufacturer from inclusion in the Directory under certain circumstances; authorizing the Attorney General to collect certain information and material from nonparticipating manufacturers; allowing the Attorney General when necessary to require certain wholesalers or distributors to file monthly reports; specifying reporting date; listing information required to be included in the report; requiring electronic filing of the report; allowing the Attorney General to establish alternative filing procedures and methods; authorizing the Attorney General to use report information to investigate and enforce certain laws and demonstrate certain compliance; providing for limited release of reports; providing for

1 codification; providing an effective date; and
2 declaring an emergency.

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

5 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 68 O.S. 2011, Section 360.9, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 360.9 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
8 ~~if a newly qualified nonparticipating manufacturer is to be listed~~
9 ~~in the Oklahoma Tobacco Directory (the Directory), or if the~~
10 ~~Attorney General reasonably determines that any nonparticipating~~
11 ~~manufacturer who has filed a certification pursuant to Section 360.4~~
12 ~~of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes poses an elevated risk for~~
13 ~~noncompliance with the Master Settlement Agreement or with the~~
14 ~~Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act, neither such~~
15 ~~nonparticipating manufacturer nor any of its brand families shall be~~
16 ~~included in the Directory unless and until such nonparticipating~~
17 ~~manufacturer, or its United States importer that undertakes joint~~
18 ~~and several liability for the performance of the manufacturer in~~
19 ~~accordance with Section 13 of this act, has posted a bond in~~
20 ~~accordance with this section~~ any nonparticipating manufacturer shall
21 post a bond for the exclusive benefit of this state if:

22 1. It was not listed in the Oklahoma Tobacco Directory,
23 hereinafter referred to as the Directory, during the four (4)
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1 consecutive calendar quarters preceding its application to be on the
2 Directory;

3 2. It had been previously listed in the Directory, but was
4 involuntarily removed or denied recertification for noncompliance
5 with the Master Settlement Agreement or the Prevention of Youth
6 Access to Tobacco Act, unless the removal was determined to have
7 been erroneous or illegal; or

8 3. The Attorney General reasonably determines that the
9 nonparticipating manufacturer who has filed a certification pursuant
10 to Section 360.4 of this title poses an elevated risk for
11 noncompliance with the Master Settlement Agreement or with the
12 Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act. A reasonable risk of
13 noncompliance with this section or the Prevention of Youth Access to
14 Tobacco Act includes, but is not limited to, the following
15 circumstances and a nonparticipating manufacturer shall be deemed to
16 pose an elevated risk for noncompliance if:

17 a. any state has removed the manufacturer or its brand or
18 brand families or an affiliate or any of the
19 affiliate's brands or brand families from the tobacco
20 directory of the state or placed the manufacturer or
21 its brand or brand families or an affiliate or any of
22 the affiliate's brands on a list of noncompliant
23 companies, brands or brand families for noncompliance
24 with the state law at any time during the calendar

1 year or within the past five (5) consecutive calendar
2 years, unless it submits proof that its brands, or the
3 brands of an affiliate were erroneously or illegally
4 removed from a tobacco directory of a state,

5 b. any state, or the federal government, has filed
6 litigation against or has an unsatisfied judgment
7 against the manufacturer or any affiliate thereof for
8 escrow or for penalties, costs, or attorney fees
9 related to noncompliance with state escrow laws or
10 complementary legislation, or

11 c. the nonparticipating manufacturer or any affiliate has
12 been charged, entered a plea or has been convicted of
13 violating the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act,
14 the Jenkins Act or the PACT Act.

15 ~~B. The bond shall be posted by corporate surety located within~~
16 ~~the United States in an amount equal to the greater of Fifty~~
17 ~~Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or the amount of escrow the~~
18 ~~manufacturer in either its current or predecessor form was required~~
19 ~~to deposit as a result of its sales in the previous calendar year in~~
20 ~~Oklahoma. The bond shall be written in favor of the State of~~
21 ~~Oklahoma and shall be conditioned on the performance by the~~
22 ~~nonparticipating manufacturer, or its United States importer that~~
23 ~~undertakes joint and several liability for the performance of the~~
24 ~~manufacturer in accordance with Section 13 of this act, of all of~~

~~its duties and obligations under the Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act and the Master Settlement Agreement Complementary Act during the year in which the certification is filed and the next succeeding calendar year.~~

~~C. A nonparticipating manufacturer may be deemed to pose an elevated risk for noncompliance with this section or the Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act if:~~

~~1. The nonparticipating manufacturer or any affiliate thereof has underpaid an escrow obligation with respect to any state at any time during the calendar year or within the past three (3) calendar years unless:~~

~~a. the manufacturer did not make underpayment knowingly or recklessly and the manufacturer promptly cured the underpayment within one hundred eighty (180) days' notice of it, or~~

~~b. the underpayment or lack of payment is the subject of a good faith dispute as documented to the satisfaction of the Attorney General and the underpayment is cured within one hundred eighty (180) days of entry of a final order establishing the amount of the required escrow payment;~~

~~2. Any state has removed the manufacturer or its brands or brand families or an affiliate or any of the affiliate's brands or brand families from the state's tobacco directory for noncompliance~~

~~with the state law at any time during the calendar year or within the past three (3) calendar years; or~~

~~3. Any state has litigation pending against, or an unsatisfied judgment against, the manufacturer or any affiliate thereof for eserow or for penalties, costs, or attorney fees related to noncompliance with state eserow laws.~~

~~D. As used in this section, "newly qualified nonparticipating manufacturer" means a nonparticipating manufacturer that has not previously been listed in the Oklahoma Tobacco Directory. Such manufacturer may be required to post a bond in accordance with this section for the first three (3) years of their listing, or longer if they have been determined to pose an elevated risk for noncompliance. Any other nonparticipating manufacturer that has been determined to pose an elevated risk for noncompliance shall be required to post a bond in accordance with this section for three (3) years or longer if such nonparticipating manufacturer still poses an elevated risk at the end of such three-year period.~~

For purposes of this section an affiliate is an entity or individual that either controls or is controlled by the nonparticipating manufacturer, regardless of whether the control being exercised is direct or indirect.

C. Neither a nonparticipating manufacturer nor any of its brand families shall be included in the Directory unless and until the nonparticipating manufacturer:

1 1. Undertakes joint and several liability with its importer for
2 the performance of the manufacturer in accordance with Section
3 360.5-1 of this title and, if required, has posted a joint bond in
4 accordance with this section;

5 2. The manufacturer and importer, if any, have:

6 a. registered to do business within the state with the
7 Oklahoma Secretary of State,

8 b. maintained a registered service agent within the State
9 of Oklahoma, and

10 c. agreed that the Oklahoma Secretary of State will act
11 as service agent if the registered service agent dies,
12 resigns or otherwise is unavailable to accept service
13 on behalf of the nonparticipating manufacturer or
14 importer; and

15 3. The manufacturer and importer, if any, consent to be sued in
16 the district courts of the State of Oklahoma for purposes of the
17 state enforcing any provision of the Prevention of Youth Access to
18 Tobacco Act, the Master Settlement Agreement Complementary Act and
19 Oklahoma cigarette excise tax statutes.

20 D. The bond shall be posted by corporate surety located within
21 the United States in an amount equal to the greater of Fifty
22 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or fifty percent (50%) of the required
23 escrow that the manufacturer in either its current or predecessor
24 form was required to deposit as a result of its sales in Oklahoma

1 during the last full calendar year it was listed in the Directory.
2 The bond shall be written in favor of the State Of Oklahoma and
3 shall be conditioned on the performance by the nonparticipating
4 manufacturer, or its United States importer that undertakes joint
5 and several liability for the performance of the manufacturer in
6 accordance with Section 360.5-1 of this title, of all of its duties
7 and obligations under the Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act
8 and the Master Settlement Agreement Complementary Act during the
9 year in which the certification is filed and the next succeeding
10 calendar year.

11 E. Any manufacturer or importer required to post a bond in
12 accordance with this section shall do so for three (3) consecutive
13 years, or longer if the Attorney General determines the manufacturer
14 or importer poses an elevated risk at the end of the three-year
15 period.

16 F. If a nonparticipating manufacturer fails to make or have
17 made in its behalf deposits equal to the full amount owed for a
18 quarter within fifteen (15) days of the due date of the quarter, the
19 State of Oklahoma may execute on the bond in the amount of the
20 remaining escrow deposit due. Escrow amounts collected from the
21 bond shall be used to reduce the amount of escrow due from and
22 penalties assessed against that nonparticipating manufacturer and
23 unpaid escrow that exceeds the amount covered by the bond remains
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1 due from the nonparticipating manufacturer and any importer that is
2 jointly and severally liable for its cigarette sales into the state.

3 G. In addition to the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of
4 subsection B of Section 360.4 of this title the Attorney General has
5 the authority to not retain or not to include in the Directory any
6 manufacturer, its brands and brand families if the manufacturer:

7 1. Does not certify it is subject to, without any immunity, the
8 Master Settlement Agreement Complementary Act and the Prevention of
9 Youth Access to Tobacco Act;

10 2. Fails to disclose that a state or the federal government has
11 brought an action in compliance with any state or federal law,
12 regulating the sale and or distribution of tobacco products,
13 including the escrow statute of another state; or

14 3. Fails to sell only through an Oklahoma-licensed wholesaler
15 any tobacco product sold into the state or fails to provide monthly
16 PACT Act reports to the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the Oklahoma
17 Attorney General for sales into the state.

18 H. The Attorney General shall have the authority to require the
19 manufacturer to submit all information and materials the Attorney
20 General deems appropriate to determine compliance of the
21 nonparticipating manufacturer with this section and other related
22 laws including the grounds for retaining or not including a
23 manufacturer or its brands and brand families in the Directory.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 360.10 of Title 68, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Attorney General may, when considered necessary for the
5 enforcement of any provision of the Prevention of Youth Access to
6 Tobacco Act or the Master Settlement Agreement Complementary Act,
7 require each wholesaler or distributor of cigarettes and roll-your-
8 own tobacco products intended for sale in this state to file with
9 the Attorney General a report each month of its sales, by brand, to
10 retailers and wholesalers located in this state.

11 B. The wholesaler or distributor shall file a report on or
12 before the twentieth day of each month containing the following
13 information for the sales during the preceding calendar month of
14 cigarettes and roll-your-own tobacco that are subject to this
15 section to each retailer and wholesaler:

16 1. The name and address of the outlet location of each retailer
17 and wholesaler to which the wholesaler or distributor delivered
18 cigarettes, including the city and zip code;

19 2. The monthly sales, including the number of individual
20 cigarettes, by brand name, made to other wholesalers and retailers
21 in packages bearing the excise tax stamp of the State of Oklahoma;

22 3. The monthly sales, including the number of individual
23 cigarettes, by brand name, made to tribal retailers of compacting
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1 Tribes, in packages bearing the joint "unity rate" tax stamp
2 purchased from the Oklahoma Tax Commission;

3 4. The monthly sales, including the number of individual
4 cigarettes, by brand name, made to other wholesalers located outside
5 the State of Oklahoma in packages not bearing the excise tax stamp
6 of the State of Oklahoma;

7 5. The monthly sales, including the number of individual
8 cigarettes, by brand name, made to noncompacting Tribes located in
9 the State of Oklahoma that bear the black tax-free stamp for sales
10 to tribal members of a noncompacting Tribe;

11 6. The monthly sales of individual containers of roll-your-own
12 tobacco products, by brand name and by weight, upon which the state
13 excise or "unity" tax has been paid and the monthly sales of
14 individual containers of roll-your-own tobacco products, by brand
15 name and by weight made to noncompacting Tribes located within the
16 State of Oklahoma; and

17 7. All monthly net sales reports shall include the invoice
18 number, invoice date, and per-carton sales price of cigarettes sold,
19 distributed or shipped into Oklahoma. The reports shall also
20 include the beginning and ending inventory for each type of stamp
21 held during the reporting period.

22 C. Except as provided by this subsection, the wholesaler or
23 distributor shall file the report required by this section with the
24 Attorney General and the Oklahoma Tax Commission electronically.

1 The Attorney General may establish procedures for allowing an
2 alternative method of filing for a wholesaler or distributor who
3 demonstrates to the Attorney General an inability to comply with the
4 electronic reporting requirement. If the Attorney General
5 determines that another technological method of filing the report is
6 more efficient than electronic filing, the Attorney General may
7 establish procedures requiring its use by wholesalers and
8 distributors.

9 D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law the Attorney
10 General, in the sole discretion of the Attorney General, may use the
11 information contained in the reports received under this section and
12 reports received from the Oklahoma Tax Commission to investigate and
13 enforce the provisions of the Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco
14 Act and the Master Settlement Agreement Complementary Act and to
15 demonstrate compliance of the state with the terms of the Master
16 Settlement Agreement and a subsequent settlement agreement entered
17 into with the participating manufacturers to the Master Settlement
18 Agreement in April 2013. The Attorney General may condition the
19 release of the reports received by the Attorney General to only
20 those third parties who have signed and pledged to abide by the
21 terms of any confidentiality agreement that the Attorney General
22 deems necessary to preserve the confidentiality of the records.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.
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SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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