

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE BILL 1579

By: Pruett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to elections; requiring nonpartisan elections for county sheriff; providing procedures; amending 19 O.S. 2011, Section 510, which relates to qualifications for county sheriff; modifying qualifications; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-103.1 of Title 26, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning with the 2016 election cycle, elections for the office of county sheriff shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis. Candidates for county sheriff shall file a Declaration of Candidacy with the secretary of the county election board as provided in Section 5-103 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes but shall not declare a party affiliation.

B. If more than two candidates qualify to have their names appear on the ballot for the office of county sheriff, the names of all such candidates shall appear on the Primary Election ballot. If

1 no single candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the
2 votes cast at the Primary Election, the names of the two candidates
3 receiving the highest number of votes at the Primary Election shall
4 appear on the General Election ballot.

5 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2011, Section 510, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 510. Any person, otherwise qualified, who has been a
8 resident of the State of Oklahoma for two (2) years, has been a
9 registered voter ~~of the party whose nomination he or she seeks, or a~~
10 ~~registered Independent,~~ and resides within the county from which
11 such person seeks election for the six (6) months next preceding the
12 first day of the filing period, ~~except in 2004, when such person~~
13 ~~must have been a qualified registered elector no later than December~~
14 ~~21, 2003,~~ is at least twenty-five (25) years of age next preceding
15 the date of filing for office, and possesses at least a high school
16 education, shall be eligible to hold the office of county sheriff or
17 to file therefor. Provided, however, in counties with populations
18 of five hundred thousand (500,000) or more, the person seeking
19 election shall also be a current certified peace officer in good
20 standing. Within twelve (12) months of taking office, all newly
21 elected or appointed sheriffs shall complete a sheriff's
22 administrative school which has been developed by the Oklahoma
23 ~~Sheriff's~~ Sheriffs' Association and which has been approved by the
24 Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET). Failure

1 to complete the sheriff's administrative school within the specified
2 period shall preclude the new sheriff from obtaining CLEET
3 certification. New sheriffs with prior CLEET certification, who
4 fail to attend the sheriff's administrative school, shall have their
5 CLEET certification revoked. Provided, however, the provisions of
6 this section relating to qualifications shall not apply to any
7 person serving as a county sheriff or to any person previously
8 serving as county sheriff prior to the adoption of this statute.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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11 55-1-5194 LRB 12/09/14
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