

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

HOUSE BILL 2914

By: Loring

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to definitions and general provisions; amending 25 O.S. 2011, Section 304, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 81, O.S.L. 2019 (25 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 304), which relates to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; modifying definition; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2011, Section 304, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 81, O.S.L. 2019 (25 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 304), is amended to read as follows:

Section 304. As used in the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act:

1. "Public body" means the governing bodies of all municipalities located within this state, boards of county commissioners of the counties in this state, boards of public and higher education in this state and all boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies, trusteeships, authorities, councils, committees, public trusts or any entity created by a public trust, including any committee or subcommittee composed of any of the members of a public

1 trust or other legal entity receiving funds from the Rural Economic
2 Action Plan Fund as authorized by Section 2007 of Title 62 of the
3 Oklahoma Statutes, task forces or study groups in this state
4 supported in whole or in part by public funds or entrusted with the
5 expending of public funds, or administering public property, and
6 shall include all committees or subcommittees of any public body.
7 Public body shall not include the state judiciary, the Council on
8 Judicial Complaints when conducting, discussing, or deliberating any
9 matter relating to a complaint received or filed with the Council,
10 the ~~Legislature~~ political party caucuses of both the Oklahoma House
11 of Representatives and the Senate, regardless of whether they
12 contain a majority of the members of those bodies, or administrative
13 staffs of public bodies, including, but not limited to, faculty
14 meetings and athletic staff meetings of institutions of higher
15 education when those staffs are not meeting with the public body, or
16 entry-year assistance committees. Furthermore, public body shall
17 not include the multidisciplinary teams provided for in Section 1-9-
18 102 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes and subsection C of
19 Section 1-502.2 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes or any school
20 board meeting for the sole purpose of considering recommendations of
21 a multidisciplinary team and deciding the placement of any child who
22 is the subject of the recommendations. Furthermore, public body
23 shall not include meetings conducted by stewards designated by the
24 Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission pursuant to Section 203.4 of Title

1 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes when the stewards are officiating at
2 races or otherwise enforcing rules of the Commission;

3 2. "Meeting" means the conduct of business of a public body by
4 a majority of its members being personally together or, as
5 authorized by Section 307.1 of this title, together pursuant to a
6 videoconference. Meeting shall not include informal gatherings of a
7 majority of the members of the public body when no business of the
8 public body is discussed;

9 3. "Regularly scheduled meeting" means a meeting at which the
10 regular business of the public body is conducted;

11 4. "Special meeting" means any meeting of a public body other
12 than a regularly scheduled meeting or emergency meeting;

13 5. "Emergency meeting" means any meeting called for the purpose
14 of dealing with an emergency. For purposes of the Oklahoma Open
15 Meeting Act, an emergency is defined as a situation involving injury
16 to persons or injury and damage to public or personal property or
17 immediate financial loss when the time requirements for public
18 notice of a special meeting would make such procedure impractical
19 and increase the likelihood of injury or damage or immediate
20 financial loss;

21 6. "Continued or reconvened meeting" means a meeting which is
22 assembled for the purpose of finishing business appearing on an
23 agenda of a previous meeting. For the purposes of the Oklahoma Open
24 Meeting Act, only matters on the agenda of the previous meeting at

1 which the announcement of the continuance is made may be discussed
2 at a continued or reconvened meeting; and

3 7. "Videoconference" means a conference among members of a
4 public body remote from one another who are linked by interactive
5 telecommunication devices permitting both visual and auditory
6 communication between and among members of the public body and
7 members of the public. During any videoconference, both the visual
8 and auditory communications functions of the device shall be
9 utilized. Whenever the term "teleconference" appears in any law in
10 relation to a meeting of a public body, it shall be deemed to mean a
11 videoconference as defined in this paragraph.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

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