

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 SENATE BILL 1863

By: Smalley

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the State Commissioner of Health;
8 amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-106, which relates
9 to powers and duties; removing qualifications of the
10 Commissioner; updating statutory language; and
11 providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-106, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 1-106. ~~A. The State Commissioner of Health shall serve~~
16 ~~at the pleasure of the State Board of Health, and shall have skill~~
17 ~~and experience in public health duties and sanitary sciences and~~
18 ~~shall meet at least one of the following qualifications:~~

19 1. ~~Possession of a Doctor of Medicine Degree and a license to~~
20 ~~practice medicine in this state;~~

21 2. ~~Possession of an Osteopathic Medicine Degree and a license~~
22 ~~to practice medicine in this state;~~

23 3. ~~Possession of a Doctoral degree in Public Health or Public~~
24 ~~Health Administration; or~~

1 ~~4. Possession of a Master of Science Degree and a minimum of~~
2 ~~five (5) years of supervisory experience in the administration of~~
3 ~~health services.~~

4 ~~B.~~ The State Commissioner of Health shall have the following
5 powers and duties, ~~unless otherwise directed by the State Board of~~
6 ~~Health:~~

7 1. Have general supervision of the health of the citizens of
8 the state; make investigations, inquiries and studies concerning the
9 causes of disease and injury, and especially of epidemics, and the
10 causes of mortality, and the effects of localities, employment,
11 conditions and circumstances on the public health; investigate
12 conditions as to health, sanitation and safety of schools, prisons,
13 public institutions, mines, public conveyances, camps, places of
14 group abode, and all buildings and places of public resort, and
15 recommend, prescribe and enforce such measures of health, sanitation
16 and safety for them as the Commissioner deems advisable; take such
17 measures as deemed necessary by the Commissioner to control or
18 suppress, or to prevent the occurrence or spread of, any
19 communicable, contagious or infectious disease, and provide for the
20 segregation and isolation of persons having or suspected of having
21 any such disease; designate places of quarantine or isolation;
22 advise state and local governments on matters pertaining to health,
23 sanitation and safety; and abate any nuisance affecting injuriously
24 the health of the public or any community. Any health information

1 or data acquired by the Commissioner from any public agency, which
2 information or data is otherwise confidential by state or federal
3 law, shall remain confidential notwithstanding the acquisition of
4 this information by the Commissioner.

5 2. Be the executive officer and supervise the activities of the
6 State Department of Health, and act for the Department in all
7 matters except as may be otherwise provided in this Code; administer
8 oaths at any hearing or investigation conducted pursuant to this
9 Code; and enforce rules and standards adopted by the ~~State Board of~~
10 ~~Health~~ Commissioner. All rules adopted by the ~~State Board of Health~~
11 Commissioner are subject to the terms and conditions of the
12 Administrative Procedures Act.

13 3. Appoint an Assistant State Commissioner of Health and fix
14 the qualifications, duties and compensation of the Assistant State
15 Commissioner of Health; and employ, appoint and contract with, and
16 fix the qualifications, duties and compensation of, such other
17 assistants, doctors, engineers, attorneys, sanitarians, nurses,
18 laboratory personnel, administrative, clerical and technical help,
19 investigators, aides and other personnel and help, either on a full-
20 time, part-time, fee or contractual basis, as shall be deemed by the
21 Commissioner necessary, expedient, convenient or appropriate to the
22 performance or carrying out of any of the purposes, objectives or
23 provisions of this Code, or to assist the Commissioner in the
24 performance of official duties and functions.

1 4. Cause investigations, inquiries and inspections to be made,
2 and hold hearings and issue orders pursuant to the provisions of the
3 Administrative Procedures Act, to enforce and make effective the
4 provisions of this Code, and all rules and standards adopted by the
5 ~~State Board of Health~~ Commissioner pursuant to law and the
6 Commissioner or the representative of the Commissioner shall have
7 the right of access to any premises for such purpose at any
8 reasonable time, upon presentation of identification.,

9 5. Authorize persons in the State Department of Health to
10 conduct investigations, inquiries and hearings, and to perform other
11 acts that the Commissioner is authorized or required to conduct or
12 perform personally.

13 6. Except as otherwise provided by law, all civil and criminal
14 proceedings under this Code shall be initiated and prosecuted by the
15 district attorney where the violation takes place.

16 7. Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the
17 production of books and records at any hearing to be conducted by
18 the Commissioner ~~or the State Board of Health~~; and if a person
19 disobeys any such subpoena, or refuses to give evidence before, or
20 to allow books and records to be examined by, the Commissioner ~~or~~
21 ~~the Board~~ after such person is directed to do so, the Commissioner
22 may file a contempt proceeding in the district court of the county
23 in which the premises involved are situated, or, if no premises are
24 involved, of the county in which such person resides or has a

1 principal place of business, and a judge of such court, after a
2 trial de novo, may punish the offending person for contempt.

3 8. Unless otherwise required by the terms of a federal grant,
4 sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of personal property that has
5 been acquired by the State Department of Health, or any of its
6 components, when such property becomes obsolete or is no longer
7 needed; any money derived therefrom shall be deposited in the Public
8 Health Special Fund.

9 9. Sell films, educational materials, biological products and
10 other items produced by the State Department of Health; and all
11 proceeds therefrom shall be deposited in the Public Health Special
12 Fund.

13 10. Revoke or cancel, or suspend for any period up to one (1)
14 year, any license or permit issued under or pursuant to this Code,
15 or by the Commissioner, when the Commissioner determines that ground
16 therefor as prescribed by this Code exists, or that the holder of
17 such license or permit has violated any law, or any of the
18 provisions of this Code, or any rules or standards of the ~~State~~
19 ~~Board of Health~~ Commissioner filed with the Secretary of State, but
20 the Commissioner shall first afford the holder an opportunity to
21 show cause why the license or permit should not be revoked, canceled
22 or suspended, notice of such opportunity to be given by certified
23 United States Mail to the holder of the license or permit at the
24 last-known address of such holder.

1 11. Accept, use, disburse and administer grants, allotments,
2 gifts, devises, bequests, appropriations and other monies and
3 property offered or given to the State Department of Health, or any
4 component or agency thereof, by any agency of the federal
5 government, or any corporation or individual.

6 12. Be the official agency of the State of Oklahoma in all
7 matters relating to public health which require or authorize
8 cooperation of the State of Oklahoma with the federal government or
9 any agency thereof; coordinate the activities of the State
10 Department of Health with those of the federal government or any
11 department or agency thereof, and with other states, on matters
12 pertaining to public health, and enter into agreements for such
13 purpose, and may accept, use, disburse and administer, for the
14 office of the Commissioner or for the State Department of Health,
15 for any purpose designated and on the terms and conditions thereof,
16 grants of money, personnel and property from the federal government
17 or any department or agency thereof, or from any state or state
18 agency, or from any other source, to promote and carry on in this
19 state any program relating to the public health or the control of
20 disease, and enter into agreements for such purposes.

21 13. The State Commissioner of Health may appoint commissioned
22 peace officers, certified by the Council on Law Enforcement
23 Education and Training, to investigate violations of the Public
24 Health Code and to provide security to Department facilities.

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

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