

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1444

By: Jech

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Rural Electric Cooperative Act; amending 18 O.S. 2021, Section 437.7, which relates to members; authorizing certain registrations to count towards quorum; defining term; updating outline; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2021, Section 437.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 437.7. ~~(a)~~ A. No person who is not an incorporator shall become a member of a cooperative unless such person shall agree to use electric energy furnished by the cooperative when such electric energy shall be available through its facilities. The bylaws of a cooperative may provide that any person, including a corporation, shall cease to be a member thereof if he or she shall fail or refuse to use electric energy made available by the cooperative or if electric energy shall not be made available to such person by the cooperative within a specified time after such person shall have become a member thereof. Membership in the

1 cooperative shall not be transferable, except as provided in the
2 bylaws. The bylaws may prescribe additional qualifications and
3 limitations in respect to membership.

4 ~~(b)~~ B. An annual meeting of the members shall be held at such
5 time as shall be provided in the bylaws.

6 ~~(c)~~ C. Special meetings of the members may be called by the
7 board of trustees, by any three trustees, by not less than ten
8 percent (10%) of the members, or by the president.

9 ~~(d)~~ D. Meetings of members shall be held at such place as may
10 be provided in the bylaws. In the absence of any such provision,
11 all meetings shall be held in the city or town in which the
12 principal office of the cooperative is located.

13 ~~(e)~~ E. Except as hereinafter otherwise provided, written or
14 printed notice stating the time and place of each meeting of members
15 and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for
16 which the meeting is called, shall be given to each member, either
17 personally or by mail, not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty-
18 five (25) days before the date of the meeting.

19 ~~(f)~~ F. Five percent (5%) of all members, present in person,
20 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all
21 meetings of the members, unless the bylaws prescribe the presence of
22 a greater percentage of the members for a quorum. If less than a
23 quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in
24 person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further

1 notice. If allowed by the bylaws of a cooperative, mail-in ballots
2 may be counted toward the required five percent (5%) of members
3 necessary to constitute a quorum. If specified in the meeting
4 notice, in-person registrations shall be counted toward the required
5 five percent (5%) of members necessary to constitute a quorum.

6 ~~(g)~~ G. Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter
7 submitted to a vote at a meeting. Voting shall be in person, but,
8 if the bylaws so provide, may also be by proxy or by mail, or both.
9 If the bylaws provide for voting by proxy or by mail, they shall
10 also prescribe the conditions under which proxy or mail voting shall
11 be exercised. In any event, no person shall vote a proxy for more
12 than three members at any meeting of the members.

13 H. For purposes of this section, "in-person registration" means
14 the act of registering to vote in person at a location or locations
15 designated in the meeting notice.

16 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
17 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

21 58-2-3050

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