

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 957

By: Howard

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Judiciary; amending 20 O.S.
8 2011, Section 1402, which relates to disqualification
9 of appellate judges; modifying procedures for
10 assignment of Justices or Judges in substitution of
recused or disqualified Justices or Judges; and
providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2011, Section 1402, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 1402. A. No Justice of the Supreme Court of this State
16 or Judge of the Criminal Court of Appeals shall participate in the
17 decision of any appellate cause ~~in such Court appealed thereto from~~
18 ~~a lower court of said state,~~ in which ~~court~~ the Justice or
19 Judge ~~was judge presiding~~ presided at the trial of such cause; ~~and~~
20 ~~the same qualifications shall apply to the members of the Supreme~~
21 ~~Court and the Criminal Court of Appeals, as to other courts of~~
22 ~~record; and whenever any member of either of said Courts is.~~

23 B. When a Justice of the Supreme Court is recused or
24 ~~disqualified, the same shall be entered of record in such Court and~~

1 ~~such disqualifications of such member shall forthwith be certified~~
2 ~~by~~ from deciding a cause for any reason, the remainder of the Court
3 shall decide the cause. If, during the decision of any cause, there
4 are less than seven (7) qualified Justices, the Clerk of such the
5 Court shall certify all such recusals or disqualifications to the
6 ~~Governor of the state, who shall appoint some member of the Bar of~~
7 ~~the state, possessing the same qualifications as the members of such~~
8 ~~Court, to sit as special Judge in said cause~~ assign a retired
9 Supreme Court Justice to the matter in substitution of the recused
10 or disqualified Justices. If no retired Supreme Court Justice is
11 able to serve, the Governor shall assign a member of the Bar of this
12 state who possesses the same qualifications as the members of the
13 Supreme Court to the matter in substitution of the recused or
14 disqualified Justice.

15 C. When a Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals is recused or
16 disqualified from deciding a cause for any reason, the Clerk of the
17 Court shall certify the recusal or disqualification along with the
18 case number to the Governor who shall assign a retired Judge of the
19 Court of Criminal Appeals to the matter in substitution of the
20 recused or disqualified Judge. If no retired Judge of the Court of
21 Criminal Appeals is able to serve, the Governor shall assign a Judge
22 of the Court of Civil Appeals to the matter in substitution of the
23 recused or disqualified Judge. If no Judge of the Court of Civil
24 Appeals is able to serve, the Governor shall assign a member of the

1 Bar of this state who possesses the same qualifications as the
2 members of the Court of Criminal Appeals to the matter in
3 substitution of the recused or disqualified Judge.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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