

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3500

By: West (Tammy)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; amending 25 O.S. 2021, Section 307, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 182, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 307), which relates to executive sessions; authorizing executive sessions related to self-evaluation by public body; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 307, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 182, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 307), is amended to read as follows:

Section 307. A. No public body shall hold executive sessions unless otherwise specifically provided in this section.

B. Executive sessions of public bodies will be permitted only for the purpose of:

1. Discussing the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee;

- 1 2. Discussing negotiations concerning employees and
2 representatives of employee groups;
- 3 3. Discussing the purchase or appraisal of real property;
- 4 4. Confidential communications between a public body and its
5 attorney concerning a pending investigation, claim, or action if the
6 public body, with the advice of its attorney, determines that
7 disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the public body to
8 process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or
9 proceeding in the public interest;
- 10 5. Permitting district boards of education to hear evidence and
11 discuss the expulsion or suspension of a student when requested by
12 the student involved or the student's parent, attorney or legal
13 guardian;
- 14 6. Discussing matters involving a specific handicapped child;
- 15 7. Discussing any matter where disclosure of information would
16 violate confidentiality requirements of state or federal law;
- 17 8. Engaging in deliberations or rendering a final or
18 intermediate decision in an individual proceeding pursuant to
19 Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act;
- 20 9. Discussing matters involving safety and security at state
21 penal institutions or correctional facilities used to house state
22 inmates;
- 23 10. Discussing contract negotiations involving contracts
24 requiring approval of the State Board of Corrections, which shall be
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1 limited to members of the public body, the attorney for the public
2 body, and the immediate staff of the public body. No person who may
3 profit directly or indirectly by a proposed transaction which is
4 under consideration may be present or participate in the executive
5 session; ~~or~~

6 11. Discussing the following:

- 7 a. the investigation of a plan or scheme to commit an act
8 of terrorism,
9 b. assessments of the vulnerability of government
10 facilities or public improvements to an act of
11 terrorism,
12 c. plans for deterrence or prevention of or protection
13 from an act of terrorism,
14 d. plans for response or remediation after an act of
15 terrorism,
16 e. information technology of the public body but only if
17 the discussion specifically identifies:
18 (1) design or functional schematics that demonstrate
19 the relationship or connections between devices
20 or systems,
21 (2) system configuration information,
22 (3) security monitoring and response equipment
23 placement and configuration,
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- 1 (4) specific location or placement of systems,
2 components or devices,
3 (5) system identification numbers, names, or
4 connecting circuits,
5 (6) business continuity and disaster planning, or
6 response plans, or
7 (7) investigation information directly related to
8 security penetrations or denial of services, or
9 f. the investigation of an act of terrorism that has
10 already been committed; or

11 12. Self-evaluation of the public body.

12 For the purposes of this subsection, the term "terrorism" means any
13 act encompassed by the definitions set forth in Section 1268.1 of
14 Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

15 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this
16 section, the following public bodies may hold executive sessions:

17 1. The State Banking Board, as provided for under Section 306.1
18 of Title 6 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

19 2. The Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority, as provided for
20 in Section 854 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

21 3. The Oklahoma Development Finance Authority, as provided for
22 in Section 5062.6 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 4. The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and
2 Technology, as provided for in Section 5060.7 of Title 74 of the
3 Oklahoma Statutes;

4 5. The Oklahoma Health Research Committee for purposes of
5 conferring on matters pertaining to research and development of
6 products, if public disclosure of the matter discussed would
7 interfere with the development of patents, copyrights, products, or
8 services;

9 6. The Workers' Compensation Commission for the purposes
10 provided for in Section 20 of Title 85A of the Oklahoma Statutes;

11 7. A review committee, as provided for in Section 855 of Title
12 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

13 8. The Child Death Review Board for purposes of receiving and
14 conferring on matters pertaining to materials declared confidential
15 by law;

16 9. The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board as provided in
17 Section 1601 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

18 10. The Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board, as provided in
19 Section 2-1001 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

20 11. All nonprofit foundations, boards, bureaus, commissions,
21 agencies, trusteeships, authorities, councils, committees, public
22 trusts, task forces or study groups supported in whole or part by
23 public funds or entrusted with the expenditure of public funds for
24 purposes of conferring on matters pertaining to economic development
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1 including the transfer of property, financing, or the creation of a
2 proposal to entice a business to remain or to locate within their
3 jurisdiction if public disclosure of the matter discussed would
4 interfere with the development of products or services or if public
5 disclosure would violate the confidentiality of the business;

6 12. The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System Board for purposes of
7 discussing negotiating strategies in connection with making possible
8 counteroffers to offers to contract to provide legal representation
9 to indigent criminal defendants and indigent juveniles in cases for
10 which the System must provide representation pursuant to the
11 provisions of the Indigent Defense Act;

12 13. The Quality Investment Committee for purposes of discussing
13 applications and confidential materials pursuant to the terms of the
14 Oklahoma Quality Investment Act;

15 14. The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority established pursuant
16 to Section 24-101 et seq. of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes and
17 in its role as an electric utility regulated by the federal
18 government, for purposes of discussing security plans and procedures
19 including, but not limited to, cybersecurity matters; and

20 15. The Oklahoma Tax Commission for purposes of discussing
21 confidential taxpayer matters as provided in Section 205 of Title 68
22 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and in compliance with subsection E of
23 this section.

1 D. Except as otherwise specified in this subsection, an
2 executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or
3 appraisal of real property shall be limited to members of the public
4 body, the attorney for the public body and the immediate staff of
5 the public body. No landowner, real estate salesperson, broker,
6 developer or any other person who may profit directly or indirectly
7 by a proposed transaction concerning real property which is under
8 consideration may be present or participate in the executive
9 session, unless they are operating under an existing agreement to
10 represent the public body.

11 E. No public body may go into an executive session unless the
12 following procedures are strictly complied with:

13 1. The proposed executive session is noted on the agenda as
14 provided in Section 311 of this title;

15 2. The executive session is authorized by a majority vote of a
16 quorum of the members present and the vote is a recorded vote; and

17 3. Except for matters considered in executive sessions of the
18 State Banking Board and the Oklahoma Tax Commission, and which are
19 required by state or federal law to be confidential, any vote or
20 action on any item of business considered in an executive session
21 shall be taken in public meeting with the vote of each member
22 publicly cast and recorded.

23 F. A willful violation of the provisions of this section shall:
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1. Subject each member of the public body to criminal sanctions as provided in Section 314 of this title; and

2. Cause the minutes and all other records of the executive session including tape recordings, to be immediately made public.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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