## STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 1084 By: Haste

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AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public finance; creating the Oklahoma Public Infrastructure Districts Act; providing for short title; allowing for the implementation of public infrastructure districts in Oklahoma following the passage of a proposed constitutional amendment by the voters of this state; authorizing the Legislature to allow municipalities to approve the creation of these districts, which may incur indebtedness and issue public infrastructure bonds for the payment of costs associated with public improvements; defining terms; prohibiting a public infrastructure district to be formed without certain conditions; stipulating manner by which a public infrastructure district operates within a municipality; allowing for a municipality to establish criteria in determining the approval or rejection of a public infrastructure district; providing for construction and function of a public infrastructure district's board upon organization; establishing criteria for the governing document provided to the municipality prior to formation of the public infrastructure district; requiring a vote for amendment to governing documents; authorizing public infrastructure districts to issue bonds for the financing of costs associated with proposed public improvements within the district; creating a public infrastructure district bond; establishing criteria by which a bond may be issued by the district; preventing certain conditions to occur on the issuance of the bond; allowing for legal recourse under certain conditions; prohibiting the sale of bonds under certain conditions; allowing for administrative fees to be assessed for certain associated costs; establishing mill rate pursuant to the Oklahoma Constitution; requiring notice to be

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filed with certain entities following formation within certain timeframe; allowing for a fee to be assessed for nonpayment not to exceed certain limits; authorizing the retention of municipal authority over certain conditions within the public infrastructure districts; requiring inclusion of all existing and connected infrastructure between a municipality and a public infrastructure district; requiring transfer of certain infrastructure free of liens or financial encumbrances; providing for civil action under certain circumstances; establishing procedures for legal action to occur; requiring certain notice to be provided to purchaser of property within a public infrastructure district prior to sale by seller; establishing criteria for notice; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and providing a conditional effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-201 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Public Infrastructure Districts Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-202 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The purpose of the Oklahoma Public Infrastructure Districts Act is to implement the provisions of Section 9E of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, as referred to the people for their approval or rejection by the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of

Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ of the 1st Session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature. Upon passage of the state question, the Oklahoma Legislature authorize municipalities to approve the creation of public infrastructure districts, which may incur indebtedness and issue public infrastructure district bonds created in Section 7 of this act to pay for all or part of the cost of public improvements within such districts. The cost of all indebtedness so incurred shall be levied and assessed by the board of trustees of a public infrastructure district on the property benefited by such improvements. The board shall collect the special assessments so levied and use the same to reimburse the public infrastructure district for the amount paid or to be paid by it on the bonds issued for such improvements.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-203 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this act:

- "Board" means the board of trustees of a public infrastructure district as created by the governing document;
- 2. "District applicant" means the person proposing the creation of the public infrastructure district to the municipality where the proposed public infrastructure district shall reside;
- 3. "Division" means a portion within a public infrastructure district:

- a. that is relatively equal in number of eligible voters or potential eligible voters to all other divisions within the public infrastructure district, taking into account existing or potential developments, which, when completed, would increase or decrease the population within the public infrastructure district, and
- b. which a member of the board represents;
- 4. "Governing document" means the document governing the public infrastructure district presented by the district applicant to and approved by the municipality before the creation of the public infrastructure district;
  - 5. "Public infrastructure bond" means a bond:
    - a. that is directly payable from and secured by ad valorem property taxes that are levied:
      - (1) by the public infrastructure district that issues the bond, and
      - (2) on taxable property within the district,
    - that is the obligation of the public infrastructure district, and
    - c. for which the ad valorem property tax levy repayment of the bond does not exceed the mill rate limit pursuant to Section 9 of this act for any fiscal year.

A public infrastructure bond shall not mean a general obligation bond;

- 6. "Public infrastructure district" means an area of a municipality with defined limits and boundaries which is created by vote that operates separate and distinct from the municipality and subject to the provisions of this act including, but not limited to special assessments against the real property therein for the financing or repayment of the costs of the public infrastructure district's improvements; and
- 7. "Surface property owner" means the owner or owners of record of the surface of the property included in a proposed public infrastructure district and may not be registered voters of the property.
- SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-204 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this act, a public infrastructure district shall not be created unless:
- 1. A petition, if there are any registered voters within the applicable area, is filed with the municipality that contains the signatures of one hundred percent (100%) of registered voters within the applicable area approving the creation of the public infrastructure district; or

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- 2. A petition is filed with the municipality that contains the signatures of one hundred percent (100%) of surface property owners within the applicable area consenting to the creation of the public infrastructure district.
- B. The municipality may impose limitations on the powers of the public infrastructure district through the governing document.
- C. 1. A public infrastructure district is separate and distinct from the municipality in which it resides.
  - 2. a. Except as provided in subparagraph b of this paragraph, any financial burden of a public district:
    - (1) is borne solely by the public infrastructure district, and
    - (2) is not borne by the municipality, county, or any other public subdivisions.
    - b. Notwithstanding subparagraph a of this paragraph, the governing document may require:
      - (1) the district applicant to bear the initial costs of the public infrastructure district, and
      - (2) the public infrastructure district to reimburse the district applicant for the initial costs the municipality bears.
- 3. Any liability, judgement, or claim against a public infrastructure district:

a. is the responsibility of the public infrastructure district, and

- b. does not constitute a liability, judgement, or claim against the state municipality, county or any or other political subdivision.
- 4. a. (1) The public infrastructure district solely bears the responsibility of any collection, enforcement, or foreclosure proceeding with regard to any tax, fee, or assessment the public infrastructure imposes.
  - (2) The municipality does not bear the responsibility described in division (1) of subparagraph a of paragraph 4 of this subsection.
  - b. A public infrastructure district, and not the municipality, shall undertake the enforcement responsibility.
- D. The municipality may establish criteria in determining whether to approve or disapprove the creation of a public infrastructure district including, but not limited to:
  - 1. Historical performance of the district applicant;
  - 2. Compliance with the municipality's master plan;
  - 3. Credit worthiness of the district applicant;
  - 4. Plan of finance of the public infrastructure district; and
- 5. Proposed development within the public infrastructure district.

E. 1. The creation of a public infrastructure district is

subject to the sole discretion of the governing board of the

municipality responsible for approving or rejecting the creation of

the public infrastructure district.

2. The proposed municipality bears no liability for rejecting the proposed creation of a public infrastructure district.

- SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-205 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The legislative body of the municipality that approved the creation of a public infrastructure district shall appoint the initial members of the board, in accordance with the governing document.
- B. 1. Unless otherwise limited in the governing document, the initial term of each member shall be four (4) years.
- 2. At least half of all members of the initial board shall serve six-year terms so as to provide for elections every two (2) years.
- 3. A board may elect that a majority of the board serve an initial term of six (6) years.
- 4. After the initial term, each member shall serve for four (4) years.
  - C. 1. A board member may not be required to be a resident within the boundaries of the public infrastructure if:

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- a. all of the surface property owners' consent to the waiver of the residency requirement,
- b. there are no residents within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district, or
- c. no qualified candidate timely files to be considered for appointment to the board.
- 2. An individual who is not a resident within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district may not serve as a board member unless the individual is:
  - a. an owner of land or an agent or officer of the owner of land within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district, and
  - b. a registered voter at the individual's primary residence.
- 3. The district applicant, or spouse or immediate family member of the district applicant, shall not be appointed to the board, unless:
  - one hundred percent (100%) of the surface property
    owners' consent to the inclusion of the district
    applicant, or spouse or immediate family member of the
    district applicant to the board, or
  - b. there are no registered voters at the time of consideration for appointments to the board.

- D. 1. The governing document shall provide for a transition from legislative body appointments by the municipality pursuant to subsection A of this section to a method of election of registered voters based upon milestones or events that the governing document identifies.
- 2. Regardless of whether a board member is elected under paragraph 1 of subsection D of this section, the position of each remaining board member shall continue to be appointed under subsection A of this section until the member's respective division or board position surpasses the density milestone pursuant to the governing document.
- E. 1. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection, the board may, in the board's discretion, but no more than every four (4) years, reestablish the boundaries of each division so that each division that has reached a milestone specified in the governing document, as provided in paragraph 1 of subsection D of this section, has, as nearly as possible, the same number of eligible voters.
- 2. In reestablishing division boundaries under paragraph 1 of this subsection, the board shall consider existing or potential developments within the divisions which, when completed, would increase or decrease the number of eligible voters within the division.

3. The governing document may prohibit the board from reestablishing, without the consent of the municipality, the division boundaries as described in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

- F. The public infrastructure district may not compensate a board member for the member's service on the board.
  - G. The governing document shall:

- 1. Include a boundary description and a map of the public infrastructure district, which may include, but not limited to, an estimate of the district's population;
  - 2. Provide a description of proposed services;
- 3. Provide a financial plan showing how the proposed services are to be financed, including the proposed operating revenue derived from tax assessments, all proposed indebtedness for the district, and all other necessary budgetary conditions;
- 4. A preliminary engineering or architectural survey showing how the proposed services are to be provided;
- 5. A general description of the facilities to be constructed and the standards of such construction, including a statement of how the facility and services standards of the proposed public infrastructure district are compatible with facility and service standard of any municipality or county within which all or any portion of the proposed district is to be located;
- 6. A general description of the estimated cost of acquiring land engineering services, legal services, administrative services,

and any other major expenses related to organization and initial operation of the district;

7. State the number of board members;

- 8. Establish the electoral procedure of appointment for board members as described in this section;
- 9. Detail any and all divisions within the public infrastructure district;
- 10. Detail any and all applicable milestones established for the public infrastructure district;
- 11. Provide notice of mill rate limit as prescribed by Section

  of Article \_\_\_ of the Oklahoma Constitution for the public

  infrastructure district;
  - 12. Establish any applicable limitation on the principal amount of indebtedness for the public infrastructure district;
  - 13. Provide notice of procedural process for the authorization of the public infrastructure district to issue public infrastructure district bonds as provided in this act;
  - 14. Any funds created for any charges, fines, or fees that the public infrastructure district may assess;
  - 15. File annual reports with the municipality regarding the public infrastructure district's action; and
- 16. Include other information that the public infrastructure district or the municipality determines to be necessary or advisable.

- H. 1. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection, the board and the governing body of the municipality may amend a governing document by each adopting a resolution that approves the amended governing document.
- 2. Any amendment to a property tax mill limitation requires; provided, the amendment to a property tax mill limitation does not exceed the tax mill limit as provided in Section 9E of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution pursuant to the provisions of Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ of the 1st Session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature:
  - a. before the adoption of the resolution of the municipality pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection, the public infrastructure district shall provide notice for a public hearing with at least one member of the governing body of the municipality attending the public hearing, or
  - b. the consent of:
    - (1) One hundred percent (100%) of surface property owners within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district, and
    - (2) One hundred percent (100%) of the registered voters, if any, within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-206 of Title 11, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. A public infrastructure district may:
- 1. Issue a public infrastructure bond to pay:
  - a. all or part of the costs of acquiring, acquiring an interest in, improving, constructing, installing, completing, or extending any of the public improvements, facilities, or property for the benefit of the public infrastructure district,
  - b. the acquisition, construction, installation, or completion of public improvements related to the provision of residential or commercial developments, and
  - c. all or part of the capital costs related to the financing, acquisition, construction, installation, or completion of public transportation;
- 2. Enter into an interlocal agreement pursuant to Section 1001 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; provided, that the interlocal agreement shall not expand the powers of the public infrastructure district;
- 3. Acquire completed or partially completed improvements for fair market value as reasonably determined by:
  - a. the board,

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- b. the municipality, if required in the governing document, or
- c. a surveyor or engineer that a public infrastructure district employs or engages to perform the necessary engineering services for and to supervise the construction or installation of the improvements; and
- 4. Contract with the municipality for the municipality to provide administrative services on behalf of the public infrastructure district, when agreed to by both parties, in order to achieve cost savings and economic efficiencies, at the discretion of the municipality.
- B. A public infrastructure district may issue additional public infrastructure bonds; provided, the public infrastructure district follows the procedures as described in subsection B of Section 7 of this act for each additional bond issued.
- SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-207 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
  - A. A public infrastructure district bond:
- 1. Shall mature within not more than thirty (30) years of the date of issuance;
- 2. May not be secured by any improvement or facility paid for by the public infrastructure district;
  - 3. May not be subject to acceleration; and

- 4. May be refunded or refinanced in accordance with the applicable laws of this state.
- B. 1. A public infrastructure district may issue the public infrastructure district bond:
  - a. with the consent of one hundred percent (100%) of surface property owners within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district and one hundred percent (100%) of the registered voters, if any, within the boundaries of the proposed public infrastructure district, or
  - b. upon approval of a majority of the registered voters within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district voting in an election.
  - 2. A public infrastructure district bond:
    - a. is not subject to the limitations on a general obligation bond described in Section 411 et seq. of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and
    - b. is subject to a limitation, if any, on the principal amount of indebtedness pursuant to the governing document.
- C. The public infrastructure district bonds may be issued in denominations of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) and in integral multiples above Five Hundred Thousand

Dollars (\$500,000.00) of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) each.

- D. There is no limitation on the duration of revenues that a public infrastructure district may receive to cover any shortfall in the payment of principal of and interest on a bond that the public infrastructure issues.
- E. A public infrastructure district shall not be considered a municipality or county for purposes of Section 35 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.
- F. The board, by resolution, may delegate to one or more officers of the public infrastructure district the authority to:
- 1. Approve the final interest rate, price, principal amount, maturity, redemption features, and other terms of the bond;
- 2. Approve and execute any document relating to the issuance of a bond; and
- 3. Approve any contract related to the acquisition and construction of the improvements, facilities, or property to be financed with a bond.
- G. Any person may contest the legality of the issuance of a public infrastructure district bond or any provisions for the security and payment of the bond after publication of the notice of bond and resolution authorizing the bond. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no legal or equitable action brought with respect to any legislative acts or proceedings in connection with the authorization

or issuance of bonds by a public infrastructure district shall be commenced after the statute of limitations in accordance with the laws of this state.

- H. The total amount of the public infrastructure district indebtedness for all such divisions shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of:
- 1. The assessed valuation of all taxable tangible property in the public infrastructure district, as shown by the last completed property assessment for state or local purposes, within the city or county; or
  - 2. The opinion of value as reported by a licensed appraiser.
- I. The bonds may be sold by competitive bid pursuant to Rule 144A, 17 C.F.R. Sec. 230.144A; provided, the public infrastructure district shall not award the purchase of the bonds to a district applicant, member of the public infrastructure district's board, or individual who voted in favor for issuance of the public infrastructure district bond.
- SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-208 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A public infrastructure district may charge a fee or other charge for an administrative service that the public infrastructure district provides to pay costs associated to:

- Acquiring, improving, or extending improvements, facilities, or property; or
  - 2. Legal fees.
- SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-209 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The property tax levy of a public infrastructure district, for all purposes may not exceed ten (10) mills on the dollar of taxable value of taxable property in the district pursuant to Section 9E of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution pursuant to the provisions of Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ of the 1st Session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature.
- B. 1. Within thirty (30) days after the day on which the municipality adopts the resolution creating the public infrastructure district, the board shall record a notice with the county clerk in which property within the public infrastructure district resides.
  - 2. The notice shall include:
    - a description of the boundaries of the public infrastructure district,
    - b. a copy of the governing documents on file at the office of the municipality and applicable county district court system, and

c. the maximum rate the public infrastructure district may levy.

SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-210 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. In the event of nonpayment of any tax, fee, or charge that a public infrastructure district imposes, the public infrastructure district may impose a property tax penalty at an annual rate of no more than seven percent (7%), in addition to any other lawful penalty for nonpayment of property tax; provided, any penalty assessed for nonpayment of a fee or charge shall not exceed the nonpayment amount.
- B. All funds derived from a penalty assessed for nonpayment shall be deposited to a fund designated for use as provided in the public infrastructure district's governing document.
- SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-211 of Title 29, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The municipality, as applicable, retains the municipal's authority over all zoning, planning, design specifications and approvals, and permitting within the public infrastructure district.
- B. The inclusion of property within the boundaries of a public infrastructure district does not preclude the inclusion of the property within any other local district.

- All infrastructure that is connected to another
  - belongs to that municipality, regardless of inclusion within the boundaries of the public infrastructure district, unless the public infrastructure district and the municipality creates otherwise agree, and
  - shall comply with the design, inspection requirements, and other standards of the municipality.
- The public infrastructure district shall convey or transfer the infrastructure described in paragraph 1 of this subsection free of liens or financial encumbrances to the municipality or county in which it resides, or a potion of its boundaries resides, at no cost to the municipality or county.
- A new section of law to be codified SECTION 12. NEW LAW in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-212 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A person who contests a tax or fee or any proceeding to create a public infrastructure district, levy a tax, or impose a fee may bring a civil action against the public infrastructure district or the municipality to:
  - Set aside the proceeding; or 1.
  - 2. Enjoin the levy, imposition, or collection of a tax or fee.

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- B. The person bringing an action shall bring the action in the district court with jurisdiction in the county in which the public infrastructure district is located.
- C. An action under subsection A of this section is the exclusive remedy of a person who:
- 1. Claims an error or irregularity in a tax or fee or in any proceeding to create a public infrastructure district, levy a tax, or impose a fee; and
  - 2. Challenges a bondholder's right to repayment.
- D. A bond issued or to be issued with respect to a public infrastructure district and any tax levied or fee imposed becomes incontestable against any person who has not brought an action and served a summons in accordance with this section.
- E. 1. This section does not insulate a public infrastructure district from a claim of misuse of funds.
  - 2. a. Except as provided in subparagraph b of this paragraph, an action in the nature of mandamus is the sole form of relief available to a party challenging the issue of funds.
    - b. The limitation in subparagraph a of this paragraph does not prohibit the filing of criminal charges against or the prosecution of a party for the misuse of funds.

SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 39-213 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. Each owner of real property that sells real property inside the boundaries of the public infrastructure district, concurrently with or prior to the execution of a contract to sell the property, shall provide to the purchaser of the property a paper copy or electronic copy with the following:
  - 1. The public infrastructure district's governing document;
- 2. The maximum debt service the public infrastructure district is permitted to impose;
- 3. The estimate of the property taxes levied by the municipality that are applicable to the property for collection during the year in which the sale occurs; and
- 4. A copy of the most current county assessor's property tax certificate applicable to the property as an estimate of the sum of additional property taxes levied.
- B. Along with the information required in subsection A of this section, the seller shall include a notice with the following statement:

"This estimate only provides an estimation of the amount of the new property taxes that may be due and owing after the property has been reassessed and, in some instances, reclassified as residential property. This estimate is not a statement of the actual and future

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    taxes that may be due. First year property taxes may be based on a
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    previous year's tax classification, which may not include the full
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    value of the property and, consequently, taxes may be higher in
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    subsequent years. A seller has complied with this disclosure
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    statement as long as the disclosure is based upon a good-faith
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    effort to provide accurate estimates and information."
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        SECTION 14. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.
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        SECTION 15. The provisions of this act shall be contingent upon
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    the approval of Section 9E of Article X of the Oklahoma
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    Constitution, as referred to the people for their approval or
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    rejection by the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of
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    59th Oklahoma Legislature and shall not become operative as law
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