

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1664

By: Cantrell

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to county commissioners; amending 19 O.S. 2021, Section 326, which relates to meetings; exempting county commissioners from certain Open Meeting Act requirements; allowing county commissioners to discuss administrative, operational, and procedural matters in certain circumstances; clarifying limits to exemption; allowing county commissioners to participate in conferences, trainings, and events under certain circumstances; authorizing county commissioners to participate in legislative meetings in certain circumstances; authorizing county commissioners to discuss budgetary matters in certain circumstances; amending 56 O.S. 2021, Section 625.2, which relates to the Statewide Independent Living Council; allowing Council videoconferencing under certain circumstances; permitting the Council to conduct executive sessions by videoconference under certain circumstances; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 326, is amended to read as follows:

Section 326. A. In addition to the special sessions for equalizing assessments, and all other special sessions now provided

1 by law, the county commissioners shall meet and hold sessions for
2 the transaction of business in the county courthouse, at the county
3 seat, on or before the first Monday of each month, and may remain in
4 session as long as the public business may require, and the passing
5 upon, allowing or rejecting of bills against the county shall be
6 taken up and passed upon by the board in the order in which the
7 claims have been filed, and in which order such claims must be
8 entered upon the calendar, except salary, wage and compensation
9 claims of officers and deputies and employees, which salary, wage
10 and compensation claims may be considered and paid, on or after the
11 termination of the service pay period; provided, that such claims by
12 subordinate deputies and employees be first approved by the officer
13 having charge of the office or department. The board of county
14 commissioners may recess or adjourn its meetings within the session,
15 either from time to time or from day to day, or on call of the
16 chairman; but, if such board does not sooner adjourn its session for
17 any month, such session shall terminate and be adjourned by
18 operation of law on the last business day of such month. If the
19 board shall have adjourned its session before the last business day
20 of any month, the county clerk shall have power to call special
21 sessions when the best interests of the county demand it, upon
22 giving five (5) days' notice of the time and object of calling the
23 commissioners together, by posting up notices in three public places
24 in the county, or by publication in some newspaper of general

1 circulation in the county; provided, that in the case of a vacancy
2 in the office of county clerk, the ~~chairman~~ chair of the board shall
3 have power to call a special session for the purpose of filling such
4 vacancy.

5 B. The board of county commissioners may meet at times and in
6 places within the county other than the county courthouse if it is
7 determined that such meetings are beneficial to the general public.
8 Such meetings shall be in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting
9 Act.

10 C. County commissioners may attend and participate in
11 conferences, trainings, and educational, press, and social events,
12 even if a quorum is present, provided that no official action is
13 taken and any discussion of the business of the board of county
14 commissioners is incidental to the event.

15 D. County commissioners may attend and participate in meetings
16 and proceedings of the Legislature, even if a quorum is present,
17 provided that no official action is taken.

18 E. In budget board counties, county commissioners and other
19 county elected officers may discuss budgetary matters provided that
20 a quorum of the county budget board is not present, and no official
21 action is taken.

22 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2021, Section 625.2, is
23 amended to read as follows:

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1 Section 625.2. A. There is hereby created the Statewide
2 Independent Living Council which shall be established pursuant to
3 the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, codified
4 at 29 U.S.C., Section 701 et seq., as amended.

5 B. The duties of the Council shall be those as set forth in the
6 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

7 C. Subject to the availability of state funds other than those
8 appropriated to the Department of Rehabilitation Services for the
9 purpose of providing independent living services to its clients, and
10 in accordance with the State Plan for Independent Living, the
11 Department of Rehabilitation Services, in joint effort with the
12 Statewide Independent Living Council, may contract with independent
13 living centers for the purpose of providing independent living
14 services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

15 D. The Council shall be permitted to hold meetings through
16 videoconferencing, provided that:

17 1. Each member of the Council is audible or visible to each
18 other and the public;

19 2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the
20 meeting, as required by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, shall
21 indicate if the meeting will include videoconferencing and shall
22 also state:

23 a. each Council member appearing remotely, and
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1 b. the identity of the Council member or members who will
2 be physically present at the meeting site, if any;

3 3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted
4 as required by law, Council members shall not be permitted to alter
5 their method of attendance; provided, however, those members who
6 were identified as appearing remotely may be permitted to physically
7 appear at the meeting site, if any, for the meeting;

8 4. The Council shall be permitted to participate and speak, as
9 allowed by rule or policy set by the Council, in a meeting which
10 utilizes teleconference or videoconference in the same manner and to
11 the same extent as the public is allowed to participate or speak
12 during a meeting where all public body members are physically
13 present together at the meeting site;

14 5. Unless confidential or privileged by applicable law, any
15 documents or other materials provided to members of the Council or
16 shared electronically between members of the Council during a
17 meeting utilizing teleconferencing or videoconferencing shall also
18 be immediately available to the public on the Council's website;

19 6. All votes occurring during any meeting utilizing
20 teleconference or videoconference shall occur and be recorded by
21 roll call votes;

22 7. The Council abides by all other requirements of the Oklahoma
23 Open Meeting Act.

1 E. The Council is permitted to conduct an executive session by
2 videoconference. For such executive sessions, no Council member is
3 required to be physically present so long as each Council member is
4 audible or visible to each other. The meeting notice and agenda
5 prepared in advance of the meeting as required by law shall indicate
6 if the executive session will include videoconferencing and shall
7 also state the identity of each Council member appearing remotely,
8 and whether any member will be physically present at the meeting
9 site, if any, for the executive session.

10 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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