

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2940

By: Olsen

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act;
creating the First Amendment Open Meetings Protection
Act; amending 25 O.S. 2021, Section 312, which
relates to recording public meeting proceedings;
clarifying that personal recordings shall not be
prohibited unless they interfere with the public
meeting; including the Legislature and legislative
committee meetings in recording permissions; allowing
monetary damages for unlawful prohibitions of
recordings; providing for noncodification; and
providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "First Amendment
Open Meetings Protection Act".

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 312, is
amended to read as follows:

1 Section 312. A. The proceedings of a public body shall be kept
2 by a person so designated by such public body in the form of written
3 minutes which shall be an official summary of the proceedings
4 showing clearly those members present and absent, all matters
5 considered by the public body, and all actions taken by such public
6 body. The minutes of each meeting shall be open to public
7 inspection and shall reflect the manner and time of notice required
8 by this act.

9 B. In the written minutes of an emergency meeting, the nature
10 of the emergency and the proceedings occurring at such meeting,
11 including reasons for declaring such emergency meeting, shall be
12 included.

13 C. ~~Any~~ No public bodies nor members, officers, or staff of a
14 public body, nor any law enforcement officer or security personnel
15 present at a public meeting shall prohibit a person attending a
16 public meeting ~~may record~~ from recording the proceedings of said
17 meeting by ~~videotape~~ video, ~~audiotape~~ audio, or by any other method;
18 providing, however, such recording shall not interfere with the
19 conduct of the meeting. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections
20 304 and 309 of this title, the Oklahoma Legislature shall be
21 considered a public body solely for the purposes of this subsection,
22 and legislative committee meetings shall be considered public
23 meetings solely for the purposes of this subsection unless the
24 committee meeting is confidential or lawfully closed to the public.

1 D. In addition to the civil penalties described in subsection B
2 of Section 314 of this title, any person who was unlawfully
3 prohibited from recording a public meeting in accordance with this
4 section may bring a civil suit for monetary damages.

5 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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