

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1414

By: West (Josh) of the House

and

Hamilton of the Senate

An Act relating to counties and county officers; amending 19 O.S. 2021, Section 510, which relates to qualifications for county sheriff; defining term; modifying eligibility to file for certain office; requiring certain document be presented when filing declaration of candidacy for certain office; authorizing Secretary of State Election Board to prescribe certain form; permitting military police service to meet certain experience requirement; requiring certain verification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Counties and county officers

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 510, is amended to read as follows:

Section 510. A. As used in this section, "peace officer" shall mean a full-time duly appointed or elected officer who is currently or has previously been paid for working more than twenty-five (25) hours per week and whose duties include or included preserving the public peace, protection of life and property, prevention of crime, service of warrants, and the enforcement of:

1. Federal laws;
2. The laws of this state;
3. The laws of any other state in the United States; or

4. The local ordinances of any political subdivision of such state.

B. Any person, otherwise qualified, who has been a resident of the State of Oklahoma this state for two (2) years, has been a registered voter of the party whose nomination he or she seeks, or a registered Independent, within the county from which such person seeks election for the six (6) months next preceding the first day of the filing period, is at least twenty-five (25) years of age next preceding the date of filing for office, possesses at least a high school education, and has served as a duly certified peace officer, in a full-time capacity, for a period of four (4) years or more prior to the date of filing for the office of county sheriff, shall be eligible to file for or hold the office of county sheriff or to file therefor.

C. A candidate shall present proof of peace officer qualification at the time of filing a declaration of candidacy with the secretary of the county election board as described in Section 5-111 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Secretary of the State Election Board may prescribe a form to be included as part of the documented proof of police or veteran experience as required by this section.

D. Any veteran who has served as military police may count four (4) or more years of service as military police to meet the experience requirement listed in subsection B of this section. A veteran shall present a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) when filing a declaration of candidacy as verification of military police experience.

E. Within twelve (12) months of taking office, all newly elected or appointed sheriffs shall complete a sheriff's administrative school which has been developed by the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association and which has been approved by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET). Failure to complete the sheriff's administrative school within the specified period shall preclude the new sheriff from obtaining CLEET certification. New sheriffs with prior CLEET certification, who fail to attend the sheriff's administrative school, shall have their CLEET certification revoked. Provided, however, the provisions of this section relating to qualifications shall not apply to any person serving as a county sheriff or to any person previously serving as county sheriff prior to the adoption of this statute.

~~For purposes of this section, "peace officer" shall mean a full-time duly appointed or elected officer who is paid for working more than twenty-five (25) hours per week and whose duties are to preserve the public peace, protect life and property, prevent crime, serve warrants, and enforce state, federal or military laws and local ordinances of this state or any political subdivision thereof.~~

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 5th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____