

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 1459

By: Bergstrom

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to abstracting; amending 1 O.S. 2021,
8 Section 22, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 85,
9 O.S.L. 2023 (1 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 22), which
10 relates to the Oklahoma Abstractors Board; extending
sunset date; updating statutory language; requiring
electronic submission of certain report; providing an
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

11
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 1 O.S. 2021, Section 22, as
14 amended by Section 1, Chapter 85, O.S.L. 2023 (1 O.S. Supp. 2025,
15 Section 22), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 22. A. There is hereby re-created to continue until
17 ~~July 1, 2026~~ July 1, 2036, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset
18 Law, the Oklahoma Abstractors Board. Beginning January 1, 2008, the
19 Oklahoma Abstractors Board shall have the total responsibility of
20 administering and enforcing the Oklahoma Abstractors Act.

21 B. The Board shall have the power and duty to prescribe,
22 promulgate, and implement rules as deemed necessary to implement all
23 the provisions of the Oklahoma Abstractors Act.

1 C. The Board shall have the power and duty to obtain and secure
2 an office in Oklahoma City, and employ, direct, discharge, and
3 define the duties and set the salaries of employees of the Board,
4 including an executive director, as are necessary to implement the
5 provisions of the Oklahoma Abstractors Act.

6 D. The Board shall consist of nine (9) members who shall be
7 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate:

8 1. Six of the members shall be residents of this state who are
9 either a holder of a current valid ~~Certificate of Authority~~
10 certificate of authority or an employee of a holder of a current
11 valid ~~Certificate of Authority~~ certificate of authority for not less
12 fewer than five (5) years in a county in the district from which the
13 member is appointed prior to appointment. One member shall be
14 appointed from each of the following districts:

15 District 1: Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey,
16 Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kingfisher, Major, Roger Mills,
17 Texas, Woods, and Woodward Counties.

18 District 2: Beckham, Caddo, Carter, Comanche, Cotton, Garvin,
19 Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Love, McClain,
20 Murray, Stephens, Tillman, and Washita Counties.

21 District 3: Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, and Oklahoma Counties.

22 District 4: Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Kay, Mayes,
23 Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne,
24 Sequoyah, and Washington Counties.

District 5: Creek, Lincoln, Rogers, Tulsa, and Wagoner Counties.

District 6: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Latimer, ~~Le Flore~~ Le Flore, McIntosh, Marshall, McCurtain, Okfuskee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, and Seminole Counties;

2. One member shall be a resident of this state who has been a licensed real estate broker in ~~Oklahoma~~ this state for not less fewer than five (5) years;

3. One member shall be an attorney who is a resident of this state who has been licensed to practice in Oklahoma this state for not ~~less~~ fewer than five (5) years; and

4. One member shall be a resident of this state who has been an officer in a bank in Oklahoma this state for not less fewer than five (5) years.

E. The Governor shall make the initial appointments to the Board within ninety (90) days of July 1, 2007:

1. The initial appointments for the members of the Board shall be as follows:

- a. members appointed from Districts 1 and 3 shall serve until July 1, 2008,
- b. members appointed from Districts 2 and 4 shall serve until July 1, 2009.

c. members appointed from Districts 5 and 6 shall serve until July 1, 2010,

d. the real estate broker member shall serve until July 1, 2010,

e. the attorney member shall serve until July 1, 2009,
and

f. the bank officer member shall serve until July 1, 2010; and

2. Thereafter, all members shall serve four-year terms.

F. Each member shall hold office until the expiration of the term of office for which appointed or until a successor has been appointed and confirmed:

1. Vacancies on the Board due to death, resignation, or removal occurring during a term shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired portion of the term in a manner as provided for regular appointments to the Board;

2. Members filling the remainder of an unexpired term shall assume office immediately upon appointment by the Governor and shall serve until confirmation or denial of confirmation by the Senate; and

3. A member may be reappointed to the Board, but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. A member that has previously served two consecutive terms may be reappointed after the expiration of at least one full term.

1 G. Members of the Board shall receive no salary or compensation
2 for service on the Board, but shall be reimbursed for travel
3 expenses incurred on behalf of their service on the Board pursuant
4 to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

5 H. Members may be removed from office by the Governor:

6 1. For inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office
7 in the manner provided for by law for the removal of officers not
8 subject to impeachment;

9 2. For cause which shall include, but not be limited to:

10 a. the member has ceased to be qualified. A member of
11 the Board is no longer qualified to serve if that
12 member:

13 (1) is a member whose ~~Certificate of Authority~~
14 certificate of authority, license, or permit
15 pursuant to the laws of this state has become
16 void or has been revoked or suspended, or

17 (2) is a member who has moved from this state,

18 b. the member has been convicted, or pled guilty or nolo
19 contendere to a felony pursuant to the laws of the
20 United States or any jurisdiction,

21 c. the member has become medically incapacitated as
22 determined in writing by a medical doctor upon request
23 by the Board, or

- d. the member has been absent from three meetings, or is absent for more than one-half (1/2) the number of minutes for which a meeting is conducted of three meetings as determined by the Board during any twelve-month period, unless such absence is determined to be unavoidable in the opinion of a majority of the remaining members;

3. Upon being found guilty, through due process, of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in relation to Board duties; or

4. Upon being found mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.

I. Removal pursuant to the provisions of subsection H of this section shall be accomplished in the following manner:

1. After a majority vote of the remaining members setting out the dates of absences or other grounds for removal and the fact of the disqualification of the member, a written notification of the said vote shall be electronically sent to the Governor; and

2. Upon receipt of the written notification, the Governor, after a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, may remove any member of the Board for any of the reasons set out in the notice from the Board or for any other reason specified in this ~~act~~ section, provided:

1 a. removal pursuant to the provisions of this subsection
2 shall occur upon the Governor filing a written
3 statement of findings after the hearing as to the
4 reasons and basis for removal of the member with the
5 secretary of the Board, and
6 b. the Governor shall appoint another member in the
7 manner provided for appointments to the Board.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

13
14 60-2-2800 EB 1/8/2026 1:45:47 PM
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25