

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1688

By: Hicks

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Tourism and
8 Recreation Department; amending 74 O.S. 2021,
9 Sections 2203, 2204, and 2206, which relate to the
10 Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission; removing
11 function of Commission as an advisory body; providing
12 provision for removal of Commission members;
13 transferring powers from the Executive Director to
14 the Commission; modifying powers and duties of the
15 Commission; authorizing the Commission to appoint
16 Executive Director; allowing the Commission to
17 establish salary for the Executive Director; and
18 providing an effective date.

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

20 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 2203, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 2203. A. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation
23 Commission shall be an advisory body to the Executive Director of
24 the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and shall consist of
25 eight (8) members who shall serve a term of six (6) years.

26 Effective January 14, 2019, all duties and powers of the Commission
27 shall be transferred to the Executive Director. Any provision in
28 statute that provides to the Commission authority that is not

1 advisory in nature shall be deemed to grant the duty or power to the
2 ~~Executive Director~~. No more than one Commission member shall be
3 from any one county. The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as an ex
4 officio voting member of the Commission.

5 B. One member shall be appointed from each congressional
6 district, who shall be a resident and a qualified elector in the
7 district from which appointed, and the remaining members shall be
8 appointed from the state at large. If congressional districts are
9 redrawn each member appointed shall complete the current term of
10 office at which time a new appointment shall be made in compliance
11 with the redrawn congressional district.

12 C. Commission members shall be appointed by the Governor, with
13 the advice and consent of the Senate, and ~~shall serve at the~~
14 ~~pleasure of the~~ may be removed with cause by the Governor. Whenever
15 a vacancy on the Commission occurs by death, resignation, or
16 otherwise, the Governor shall fill the same by appointment, with the
17 advice and consent of the Senate, and the appointee shall hold
18 office during the unexpired term. Each member shall hold office
19 until a successor has been appointed and qualified.

20 D. With the exception of the ex officio, no member of the
21 Commission shall seek election to a federal, state, or county office
22 while serving on the Commission.

23 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 2204, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 2204. There are hereby granted to and imposed in the
2 Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation ~~Department~~ Commission, and in any
3 commission or body that may hereafter succeed to the powers, rights,
4 and duties of the Commission, the following additional powers,

5 rights and duties:

6 1. Sue and be sued;

7 2. Adopt, use, and alter an official seal;

8 3. Make bylaws for the management and regulation of its
9 affairs;

10 4. Appoint, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation for
11 officers, agents, and employees;

12 5. Make contracts and execute instruments as in the judgment of
13 the ~~Department~~ Commission are necessary or convenient to the
14 exercise of the powers conferred upon it by law; and

15 6. Promulgate rules and policies necessary and convenient to
16 the exercise of the powers conferred upon it by law.

17 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 2206, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 2206. The chief executive officer of the Oklahoma
20 Tourism and Recreation Department shall be the Executive Director,
21 who shall be appointed by the ~~Governor, with the advice and consent~~
22 ~~of the Senate, Oklahoma~~ Tourism and Recreation Commission and who
23 shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~Governor and may be removed or~~
24 ~~replaced without cause~~ Commission. The Executive Director shall be

1 chosen with regard to knowledge, training, experience, and ability
2 to administer the functions of the Department. ~~Compensation for the~~
3 The Commission shall establish the salary of the Executive Director
4 ~~shall be determined pursuant to Section 3601.2 of this title.~~

5 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.
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