

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 2083

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to attorneys; amending 5 O.S. 2021, Section 18, which relates to the Oklahoma Bar Association; making bar membership voluntary; prohibiting payment of dues to become an active member; authorizing the Legislature to request or require certain information; authorizing the Legislature to hold hearings and subpoena certain information or persons; requiring disciplinary bodies to have at least one lay member; making language gender neutral; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 5 O.S. 2021, Section 18, is amended to read as follows:

Section 18. A. The requirement for payment of annual dues pursuant to Section 1 of Article VIII of the Oklahoma Bar Association Rules shall be voluntary. Any payment of such dues shall be made solely at the discretion of a person who has been admitted to practice as an attorney in this state. The Supreme Court shall promulgate rules related to the practice of law in this state including, but not limited to, requirements for continuing

1 education, annual registration and any fees necessary to cover costs
2 of such education, registration or other requirements imposed by the
3 Court. Any fees required by such rules shall be used only for core
4 association functions and shall not be used for lobbying or other
5 political purposes.

6 B. Any person who has been admitted to practice as an attorney
7 in this state, who is a member in good standing of the bar of this
8 state, and who meets all requirements for licensure in this state
9 may apply for status as an inactive member of the bar.

10 ~~B.~~ C. The application for such status shall contain:

11 1. The person's name, bar number, residence address, telephone
12 number or numbers where he or she can be reached;

13 2. The reason or reasons he or she desires such status;

14 3. A statement that he or she understands that, while on such
15 status, he or she may not do anything which constitutes the practice
16 of law while in this state;

17 4. A statement that he or she has notified all of his or her
18 clients in this state that he or she is no longer practicing in this
19 state; and

20 5. An affidavit that the information given is true and correct.

21 ~~C.~~ D. Immediately upon receipt of the application, the Supreme
22 Court or its designee shall acknowledge the application and enter
23 the person's name on a roll of inactive attorneys.

1 ~~D. E.~~ While on inactive status, an attorney shall not be
2 required to complete any continuing legal education requirements ~~and~~
3 ~~shall be required to pay only twenty percent (20%) of the annual~~
4 ~~dues of an active member.~~

5 ~~E. F.~~ While on inactive status, an attorney shall not receive
6 the Oklahoma Bar Journal or any other services from the Oklahoma Bar
7 Association ~~except upon such terms and conditions, including payment~~
8 ~~of charges and fees, as shall be established by the Association.~~

9 ~~F. G.~~ Once on inactive status, an attorney may reactivate his
10 or her license to practice ~~upon payment of the equivalent of one~~
11 ~~year's annual dues to the Association and~~ upon successful completion
12 of one year's mandatory continuing legal education requirement.

13 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 70 of Title 5, unless there is
15 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. The Legislature shall have the power to request or otherwise
17 require information about complaints filed with and disciplinary
18 actions taken by the Oklahoma Bar Association. The Legislature may
19 hold hearings for the purpose of inquiring about misconduct by
20 lawyers, judges, or Oklahoma Bar Association employees or officials
21 that is relevant to the legal profession. The Legislature shall
22 have the power to subpoena documents, records, or persons to attend
23 such hearings.
24

1 B. Any disciplinary action or proceeding taken or held by the
2 Oklahoma Bar Association shall permit public representation in the
3 interest of transparency. Disciplinary bodies of the Oklahoma Bar
4 Association shall have at least one member that is not a licensed
5 attorney.

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

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