

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 2940

By: Olsen

AS INTRODUCED

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:

Section 312. A. The proceedings of a public body shall be kept by a person so designated by such public body in the form of written minutes which shall be an official summary of the proceedings

1 showing clearly those members present and absent, all matters
2 considered by the public body, and all actions taken by such public
3 body. The minutes of each meeting shall be open to public
4 inspection and shall reflect the manner and time of notice required
5 by this act.

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

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

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

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

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