

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1327

By: Jech

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;  
11 transferring certain duties to the Commission;  
12 modifying powers and duties of the Executive  
13 Director; requiring certain oath; establishing  
14 organizational and meeting requirements for the  
15 Commission; authorizing the Commission to appoint  
16 Executive Director; providing for determination of  
17 salary; and providing an effective date.

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

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

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

25 Effective January 14, 2019, all duties and powers of the Commission  
26 shall be transferred to the Executive Director. Any provision in  
27 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 Governor. Whenever a vacancy on the Commission  
15 occurs by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor shall fill  
16 the same by appointment, with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
17 and the appointee shall hold office during the unexpired term. Each  
18 member shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and  
19 qualified. Five members of the Commission shall constitute a  
20 quorum, and the vote of the majority of members present shall be  
21 necessary for any action to be taken by the Commission. No vacancy  
22 in the membership of the Commission shall impair the rights of a  
23 quorum to exercise and perform all the rights and duties of the  
24 Commission.

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

4       E. Each member of the Commission, before serving on the  
5 Commission, shall take and subscribe to the constitutional and  
6 statutory oaths of office and file the oaths with the Secretary of  
7 State. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for travel  
8 expenses to Commission meetings as provided in the State Travel  
9 Reimbursement Act.

10       F. The Commission shall be organized by the Governor who shall  
11 appoint from the Commission the chair, the vice chair, and the  
12 secretary. The Commission shall adopt rules pursuant to the  
13 provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act to execute the  
14 powers and duties of the Commission and the Oklahoma Tourism and  
15 Recreation Department.

16       G. The Commission may meet monthly and shall meet at least  
17 quarterly. The Commission may meet at such other times as it deems  
18 necessary for effectively performing its duties and  
19 responsibilities. Special meetings may be called by the chair or by  
20 any three members of the Commission. The meetings of the Commission  
21 shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

22       H. The Commission is hereby declared to be a governmental  
23 agency and instrumentality of this state with authority to exercise,  
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1       in addition to those it now has, the rights, privileges, and  
2       functions specified.

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

5       Section 2204. There are hereby granted to and imposed in the  
6       Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission, and in any commission or  
7       body which may succeed to the powers, rights, and duties of the  
8       Commission, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department the following  
9       additional powers, rights, and duties:

10      1. Sue and be sued;

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

12      3. Make bylaws for the management and regulation of its  
13       affairs;

14      4. Appoint, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation for  
15       officers, agents, and employees;

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

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

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

23       Section 2206. The chief executive officer of the Oklahoma  
24       Tourism and Recreation Department shall be the Executive Director,

1 who shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent  
2 ~~of the Senate, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission,~~ and who  
3 shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~Governor~~ Commission and may be  
4 removed or replaced without cause. The Executive Director shall be  
5 chosen with regard to knowledge, training, experience, and ability  
6 to administer the functions of the Department. ~~Compensation for The~~  
7 Commission shall establish the salary of the Executive Director  
8 ~~shall be determined pursuant to Section 3601.2 of this title.~~

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

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