

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1688

By: Hicks

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

Section 2203. A. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission shall ~~be an advisory body to the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and shall~~ consist of eight (8) members who shall serve a term of six (6) years. ~~Effective January 14, 2019, all duties and powers of the Commission shall be transferred to the Executive Director. Any provision in 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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