

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 2091

By: Standridge

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to library systems; amending 11 O.S. 2021, Section 31-102, which relates to municipal library board appointments; modifying terms for members appointed to board; amending 65 O.S. 2021, Sections 2-103, 4-103, 4-203, and 154, which relate to library system board appointments; modifying terms for members appointed to board; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 31-102, is amended to read as follows:

Section 31-102. The municipal governing body may, in its discretion and by ordinance, place the management and control of the public library under a library board of directors. The library board shall consist of at least five but not more than nine directors, chosen by the municipal governing body with reference to their fitness for such office. No director shall receive compensation as such. Directors appointed to the library board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the first day of May following their appointment, and their terms shall be

1 staggered. ~~The municipal governing body may remove any director for~~
2 ~~misconduct or neglect of duty~~ Directors appointed to the library
3 board shall serve at the pleasure of the municipal governing body
4 and may be removed without cause. Vacancies in the library board of
5 directors shall be filled in the same manner as original
6 appointments.

7 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 65 O.S. 2021, Section 2-103, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 2-103. The term of office of each appointive member,
10 except for initial appointments as herein specified, shall be six
11 (6) years, beginning July 1 of the year of appointment or until his
12 successor has been appointed and qualified. The present State
13 Library Board shall become members of the Board of the Department
14 and shall continue in office until their respective terms expire.
15 The Governor shall appoint one member on or before July 1 of each
16 year; provided that he shall make the first appointments for the
17 following terms in the years indicated: One member for a term of one
18 (1) year, and one member for a term of two (2) years in 1967; one
19 member for a term of two (2) years, one member for a term of three
20 (3) years and the member-at-large for a term of three (3) years in
21 1968; one member for a term of three (3) years, and one member for a
22 term of four (4) years in 1969. After the initial appointments,
23 terms shall be for six (6) years. Any vacancy on the Board shall be
24 filled for the remainder of the term only and by the method of the

1 original appointment. No person who has served a full six-year term
2 shall be appointed to succeed himself. ~~Members may be removed only~~
3 ~~for cause~~ Members appointed to the State Library Board shall serve
4 at the pleasure of the Governor and may be removed without cause.

5 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 65 O.S. 2021, Section 4-103, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 4-103. A. The Board of Trustees of a library system
8 containing two or more counties, herein defined as a multicounty
9 library system, shall consist of at least five (5) members. There
10 shall be at least one member from each county appointed by the board
11 of county commissioners. Additional members shall be appointed for
12 each city within the system with a public library located in the
13 city, with these appointments to be made by the governing body of
14 the city. Should the board serving a multicounty unit result in
15 fewer than five members, additional board members shall be appointed
16 on a proportional basis agreed upon by the county governments
17 involved.

18 B. Any member serving on a system board as of the effective
19 date of this act shall continue to serve until the end of the
20 current term for which they were appointed. Thereafter,
21 appointments shall be made as provided for in subsection A of this
22 section.

23 C. Initial appointments shall be distributed among one-, two-
24 and three-year terms, with one-third (1/3) of the appointments to be

1 made for one (1) year, one-third (1/3) to be made for two (2) years
2 and one-third (1/3) for three (3) years. Subsequent appointments
3 shall be for three-year terms, except in the case of an appointment
4 to fill a vacancy in the membership of the system board, which
5 appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the
6 member where death, resignation or removal has created the vacancy.
7 A partial term of not more than eighteen (18) months served
8 immediately prior to a full three-year term shall not be counted as
9 a full term. No person shall serve more than two full successive
10 terms. Provided that a person who previously served for two (2)
11 successive terms or less may be reappointed if two (2) years has
12 expired since the person's last service on the board. All tenure of
13 initial and future appointees shall expire on June 30 of the
14 designated year. A member of a system board once qualified can
15 thereafter be removed by the appointive authority during his term of
16 office ~~only for misconduct or neglect of duty~~ without cause.

17 D. Appointments to the system board shall be made on the basis
18 of ability, a sound understanding of the total responsibilities and
19 objectives of public libraries and an active interest in the
20 attainment of these comprehensive goals. Appointive members shall
21 be qualified electors and bona fide residents of the counties from
22 which they are appointed. No member of the system board shall in
23 any way be connected with the business of publishing or selling
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1 books, periodicals or other forms of library materials nor with the
2 business of manufacturing or selling library supplies or equipment.

3 E. All system board members shall serve thereon without
4 compensation except actual and necessary travel expenses as
5 authorized by the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Individual
6 memberships for systems board members in state, regional, and
7 national library associations and expenses incurred in attending
8 conferences of these associations, board meetings and other library
9 and library-related meetings may be paid from library funds upon
10 proper authorization of the board.

11 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 65 O.S. 2021, Section 4-203, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 4-203. A. The board of trustees of a rural single
14 county library system shall consist of at least five (5) members.
15 One member shall be appointed from each county commissioner district
16 by the board of county commissioners. One member shall be appointed
17 by the governing body of the county seat city or town. A member
18 shall be appointed from the city or town with the largest population
19 that is not the county seat.

20 B. Initial appointments shall be for one-, two-, and three-year
21 terms. Subsequent appointments shall be for three-year terms,
22 except in the case of an appointment to fill an unexpired term which
23 appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. No
24 person shall serve more than two full consecutive terms in addition
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1 to any partial term served by appointment to fill an unexpired term.
2 A person who previously served for two consecutive terms or less may
3 be reappointed if two (2) years has expired since the last service
4 on the board. All terms shall expire on June 30 of the designated
5 year. A member of a system board ~~can be removed by~~ shall serve at
6 the pleasure of the appointing authority during the term for which
7 appointed ~~only for misconduct or neglect of duty.~~

8 C. Appointments to the system board shall be made on the basis
9 of ability, a sound understanding of the total responsibilities and
10 objectives of public libraries and active interest in the attainment
11 of system goals. Appointive members shall be qualified electors and
12 bona fide residents of the county. No member of the system board
13 shall be in the business of publishing or selling books, periodicals
14 or other forms of library materials or the business of manufacturing
15 or selling library supplies or equipment.

16 D. All system board members shall serve without compensation
17 except for actual and necessary travel expenses which shall be
18 compensated from library funds upon proper authorization of the
19 board of trustees of the system at the rate provided in the State
20 Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the
21 Oklahoma Statutes. Individual memberships for system board members
22 in state, regional, and national library associations and expenses
23 incurred in attending conferences of these associations, board
24 meetings and other library and library-related meetings may be paid

1 from library funds upon proper authorization of the board of
2 trustees of the system.

3 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 65 O.S. 2021, Section 154, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 154. The city-county library commission shall consist
6 of eleven (11) members. Six of the members shall be appointed by
7 the mayor of the city subject to approval of the governing body
8 thereof. Three of the members shall be appointed by the board of
9 county commissioners. The mayor of the city and the chairman of the
10 board of county commissioners shall be ex officio members of the
11 commission and shall be entitled to vote on all matters. The
12 chairman of the board of county commissioners may designate another
13 county commissioner to serve in place of the chairman on the
14 commission. The county commissioner designated by the chairman
15 shall have the same voting rights as the chairman of the board of
16 county commissioners. The initial appointments by the city shall
17 designate two members to serve a term of three (3) years, two
18 members to serve a term of two (2) years, and two members to serve a
19 term of one (1) year. The initial appointments by the county shall
20 designate one member to serve a term of three (3) years, one member
21 to serve a term of two (2) years, and one member to serve a term of
22 one (1) year. Provided, that the terms of such initial appointees
23 and the terms of all future appointees of both the city and county
24 shall expire on July 31 of that year in which they expire,

1 regardless of the calendar date when such appointments are made.
2 Subsequent appointments of either the city or the county shall be
3 for three-year terms, except in the case of an appointment to fill a
4 vacancy in the membership of the commission, which latter
5 appointment shall be for the balance of the unexpired term of the
6 member whose death, resignation, or removal has created the vacancy.
7 A member of such commission once qualified can thereafter be removed
8 during his term of office ~~only for misconduct or neglect of duty at~~
9 the pleasure of the appointing authority and, if he requests a
10 hearing before the governing body by which he was appointed, after
11 such hearing has been held. All members of the commission shall
12 serve thereon without compensation. Expenses which are incurred by
13 members pursuant to prior specific authorization by the board of
14 county commissioners and the governing body of the city shall be
15 reimbursed, provided that expenses incurred for transportation,
16 meals, and lodging shall be reimbursed only if incurred in
17 connection with authorized travel outside the county.

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