

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE BILL 2124

By: Kannady

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to judges; requiring the Oklahoma  
8 Supreme Court establish an Office of Judicial  
9 Performance Evaluation and a Judicial Performance  
10 Evaluation Council; providing the purposes for the  
11 judicial evaluation process; requiring the Supreme  
12 Court appoint a director; authorizing director to  
13 hire certain employees; requiring the Administrative  
14 Office of the Court provide operational support;  
15 authorizing director to hire certain vendor;  
16 establishing certain duties of the Judicial  
17 Performance Evaluation Council; providing for certain  
18 report; requiring Supreme Court conduct certain  
19 review; requiring Supreme Court adopt rules for  
20 evaluating judicial performance; providing for  
21 confidentiality of certain information; requiring  
22 certain information be posted on Supreme Court  
23 website; providing for an annual report; and  
24 providing an effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1671 of Title 20, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. The Oklahoma Supreme Court, under the general administrative  
23 authority over all Oklahoma courts as granted in Section 6 of  
24 Article VII of the Oklahoma Constitution, shall establish the Office

1 of Judicial Performance Evaluation within the Administrative Office  
2 of the Courts. The Supreme Court shall also establish the Judicial  
3 Performance Evaluation Council to administer the process for  
4 reviewing the performance of judicial officers.

5 B. The purposes of the judicial evaluation process are to  
6 provide:

7 1. Information on judicial performance to the residents of  
8 Oklahoma and to judges;

9 2. Assist judges with opportunities for improving judicial  
10 performance;

11 3. Identify needed judicial education programs; and

12 4. Promote goals of protecting judicial independence while  
13 fostering public accountability of the judiciary.

14 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1672 of Title 20, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. The Office of Judicial Performance Evaluation shall have a  
18 director to be appointed by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The  
19 director shall hire one or more employees to assist the Judicial  
20 Performance Evaluation Council in administration of the Judicial  
21 Performance Evaluation process as defined by Supreme Court Rules.

22 B. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide  
23 operational support to employees of the Office of Judicial  
24 Performance Evaluation.

1 C. The Director of the Office of Judicial Performance  
2 Evaluation shall have the ability to hire an outside vendor to  
3 assist in the surveys established for evaluation of judicial  
4 performance.

5 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1673 of Title 20, unless there  
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. The Supreme Court shall establish a Judicial Performance  
9 Evaluation Council (JPEC) which shall administer the process for  
10 reviewing the performance of judicial officers. The JPEC shall  
11 review survey results according to the judicial performance  
12 standards established by Supreme Court Rules and compile a report.

13 B. The report of the JPEC shall be provided to the Chief  
14 Justice for distribution to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Upon  
15 receipt of the JPEC Report, the Supreme Court shall conduct a full-  
16 scale, de novo examination and determine whether each individual  
17 judge has or has not sufficiently met the judicial performance  
18 standards.

19 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1674 of Title 20, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. The Supreme Court shall adopt and administer for all  
23 intermediate appellate judges and district court judges, a process  
24 established by court rules for evaluating judicial performance. The

1 rules shall include written performance standards and performance  
2 reviews which survey opinions of persons who have knowledge of the  
3 judge's performance and shall include self-evaluation by the judge.  
4 Such process shall be made available to the Governor, the Speaker of  
5 the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore  
6 of the State Senate.

7 B. The Supreme Court shall establish rules for improving  
8 judicial performance and may include programs determined to be  
9 appropriate for judges who need improvement in achieving judicial  
10 evaluation standards. The Supreme Court, at any time, may refer an  
11 evaluation report to the Council on Judicial Complaints. Such  
12 report shall be made available to the Governor, the Speaker of the  
13 Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of  
14 the State Senate.

15 C. Information received from the evaluation surveys shall  
16 remain confidential except as provided in this section. If a  
17 judicial officer fails to achieve an overall satisfactory judicial  
18 evaluation by the Supreme Court in the second of two consecutive  
19 evaluations, or purposely fails to complete assigned programs or the  
20 self-evaluation, the judge's right to confidentiality shall be  
21 waived, and the failure of that judicial officer to meet the  
22 standards set forth in Supreme Court Rules shall be made publicly  
23 available on the Supreme Court's website.

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1           SECTION 5.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1675 of Title 20, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           The Supreme Court shall prepare an annual report on the  
5 implementation of the performance evaluation program beginning  
6 December 31 of the year following the effective date of this act and  
7 shall distribute the report to the Governor, the Speaker of the  
8 Oklahoma House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the  
9 Oklahoma State Senate, and the chairpersons of the House and Senate  
10 judiciary committees. The annual report on judicial performance  
11 evaluation shall be posted on the Supreme Court website.

12           The annual report shall include, but is not limited to, the  
13 number of evaluations performed for each level of judicial officers,  
14 the percentage of responses received, and a summary of the overall  
15 evaluation results and of all actions taken to address inadequacies  
16 and deficiencies.

17           SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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