

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 656

By: Paxton

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the State Election Board; amending
8 26 O.S. 2021, Sections 2-101, 2-101.1, 2-101.2, 2-
9 101.3, 2-101.6, and 2-101.7, which relate to the
10 number of members, appointment of members, filling of
11 vacancies, salary of the Secretary of the State
12 Election Board, and terms of officers; modifying
13 appointment of members; directing membership
14 appointments; requiring certain notarized lists be
15 provided; defining term; providing timeline of
16 appointments; authorizing removal procedures;
17 directing manner to fill vacancies; clarifying
18 language; establishing salary guidelines for the
19 Secretary; setting certain date for meeting;
20 providing for procedures in the case of a vacancy for
21 the Secretary; updating statutory language; repealing
22 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101.5, which relates to chair
23 and vice chair members; providing for codification;
24 and providing an effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 2-101. The State Election Board shall be composed of
22 ~~three (3) members and two (2) alternate~~ five (5) members, each of
23 whom shall be appointed ~~by the Governor upon advice and consent of~~
24 ~~the Senate. An alternate shall serve on the State Election Board at~~

1 ~~any meeting that a member for whom the person is an alternate is~~
2 ~~unable to attend pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-101.1 of~~
3 ~~this title.~~

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101.1, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 2-101.1. A. The State Election Board shall consist of
7 the following members:

8 1. The chair, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives;

10 2. The Secretary of the State Election Board, who shall be
11 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

12 3. One member, who shall be appointed by the Governor, pursuant
13 to the provisions of subsection B of this section, who is a
14 registered voter of the recognized political party with the largest
15 number of registered voters in the state, based on the latest
16 January 15 voter registration report, subject to the advice and
17 consent of the Senate;

18 4. One member, who shall be appointed by the Governor, pursuant
19 to the provisions of subsection B of this section, who is a
20 registered voter of the recognized political party with the second
21 largest number of registered voters in the state, based on the
22 latest January 15 voter registration report, subject to the advice
23 and consent of the Senate; and

1 5. One member, who shall be appointed by the Governor, pursuant
2 to the provisions of subsection B of this section, who is a
3 registered voter, but is not a registered voter of the largest or
4 second largest recognized political party, subject to the advice and
5 consent of the Senate.

6 Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2 of Article III of the
7 Oklahoma Constitution, not more than a majority of the members of
8 the State Election Board shall be from the same political party.

9 B. 1. No later than ~~March 1, 2015~~ January 31, 2027, and every
10 four (4) years thereafter, the state central committee of the
11 recognized political ~~party~~ parties having the largest and second
12 largest number of registered voters, based upon the latest January
13 15 registration report, shall submit to the Governor a list of ten
14 ~~(10)~~ nominees for membership on the State Election Board, ~~and the~~
15 ~~state central committee of the political party having the second~~
16 ~~largest number of registered voters, based upon the latest January~~
17 ~~15 registration report, shall submit to the Governor a list of ten~~
18 ~~(10)~~ nominees for membership on the State Election Board. The list
19 of nominees shall be signed by a majority of the members of the
20 state central committee, whose signatures shall be notarized by a
21 notary public.

22 2. The Governor shall ~~be confined to the lists of names~~
23 submitted by each party and shall appoint two ~~(2)~~ members and one
24 ~~(1)~~ alternate member of the State Election Board from ~~one political~~

1 ~~party and one (1) member and one (1) alternate member of the State~~
2 ~~Election Board from the other~~ each political party from the lists
3 provided.

4 3. For the purposes of this title, a political party's state
5 central committee shall consist of the party's chair, vice chair,
6 national committeeman and national committeewoman, or the equivalent
7 position under the party's rules.

8 4. Appointments shall be made by the Governor and submitted to
9 the Senate no later than ~~March 15, 2015~~ March 1, 2027, and every
10 four (4) years thereafter. ~~Provided, for appointments to be made in~~
11 ~~2011, such submissions shall be provided to the Governor within five~~
12 ~~(5) business days of the effective date of this act and such~~
13 ~~appointments shall be made by the Governor within ten (10) business~~
14 ~~days of the effective date of this act.~~ Appointments shall be made
15 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro
16 Tempore of the Senate no later than June 1, 2027, and every four (4)
17 years thereafter.

18 C. 1. The terms of the State Election Board members appointed
19 in the manner described in this section shall begin on July 1, 2027,
20 and shall be for a period of four (4) years. Provided, a member
21 whose term has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is
22 lawfully appointed and confirmed, if applicable.

23 2. A member of the State Election Board may be removed by the
24 appointing authority at any time, upon the concurrence, by

1 resolution, or by a majority of the members of both the House of
2 Representatives and the Senate.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101.2, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 2-101.2. In the event of a vacancy created by death,
6 removal, or resignation, ~~the Governor shall, within thirty (30) days~~
7 ~~after such vacancy occurs, appoint, upon the advice and consent of~~
8 ~~the Senate, a member of the same party to fill the unexpired term~~
9 ~~from a list of five (5) nominees submitted by the party's state~~
10 ~~central committee within fifteen (15) days after said vacancy occurs~~
11 of a State Election Board member, the vacancy shall be filled in the
12 same manner as the member was appointed.

13 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101.3, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 2-101.3. Should a state central committee fail to
16 submit nominees in the manner and within the period prescribed, the
17 Governor shall make ~~his~~ the appointment from within the ranks of
18 ~~said the~~ the party.

19 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101.6, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 2-101.6. The Secretary ~~of the Senate shall serve as~~
22 ~~Secretary~~ of the State Election Board shall serve at a salary equal
23 to the salary established by law for the Executive Director of the
24 Ethics Commission, unless otherwise established ~~annually~~ by the

1 Legislature. ~~However, the Secretary shall not be a member of the~~
2 ~~State Election Board.~~

3 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101.7, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 2-101.7. ~~On the first Monday in April, 1983~~ No later
6 than July 15, 2027, and every four (4) years thereafter, the State
7 Election Board shall meet upon the call of the Secretary of the
8 State Election Board to seat newly appointed board members and to
9 elect a ~~Chairman and Vice Chairman~~ vice chair. ~~Terms of the~~
10 ~~Chairman, Vice Chairman and member shall begin at that time.~~

11 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-132.1 of Title 26, unless
13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary of the
15 State Election Board, the Assistant Secretary of the State Election
16 Board shall serve as Acting Secretary and shall perform the duties
17 of the Secretary until the vacancy is filled in the manner provided
18 by law.

19 SECTION 8. REPEALER 26 O.S. 2021, Section 2-101.5, is
20 hereby repealed.

21 SECTION 9. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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