

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 54

By: Howard of the Senate

and

3  
4 Caldwell (Chad) of the  
House

5  
6 An Act relating to small estate administration;  
7 amending 58 O.S. 2021, Sections 393 and 394, which  
8 relate to payment or delivery of property to  
9 successor by affidavit; authorizing entities to  
10 release property upon receipt of certain affidavit;  
11 adding property required to be paid or delivered upon  
12 receipt of certain affidavit; conforming language;  
13 and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 58 O.S. 2021, Section 393, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 393. A. At any time ten (10) or more days after the  
18 date of death of a decedent, any person or entity indebted to the  
19 decedent or having possession of tangible personal property or an  
20 instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, chose in action, ~~or~~  
21 stock brand, or accounts held on deposit of cash, stock, bonds, or  
22 other equity belonging to the decedent shall make payment of the  
23 indebtedness or shall deliver the tangible personal property, ~~or an~~  
24 instrument evidencing ~~a~~ the debt, obligation, stock, chose in  
action, ~~or~~ stock brand, or proceeds from the account held on deposit  
to a person claiming to be the successor of the decedent upon being

1 presented an affidavit made by or on behalf of the successor stating  
2 that:

3 1. The fair market value of property located in this state  
4 owned by the decedent and subject to disposition by will or  
5 intestate succession at the time of the decedent's death, less liens  
6 and encumbrances, does not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars  
7 (\$50,000.00);

8 2. No application or petition for the appointment of a personal  
9 representative is pending or has been granted in any jurisdiction;

10 3. Each claiming successor is entitled to payment or delivery  
11 of the property in the respective proportions set forth in the  
12 affidavit; and

13 4. All taxes and debts of the estate have been paid or  
14 otherwise provided for or are barred by limitations.

15 B. A transfer agent of any security shall change the registered  
16 ownership on the books of a corporation from the decedent to the  
17 successor or successors upon the presentation of an affidavit as  
18 provided in subsection A of this section.

19 C. The public official having cognizance over the registered  
20 title of any personal property of the decedent shall change the  
21 registered ownership from the decedent to the successor or  
22 successors upon the presentation of an affidavit as provided in  
23 subsection A of this section.

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1 D. At any time after the date of death of a person who was an  
2 owner of a severed mineral interest in real estate, any person who  
3 claims an interest, immediately or remotely, through the decedent  
4 may file with the county clerk of the county where the mineral  
5 interest is located an affidavit of death and heirship in compliance  
6 with subsection C of Section 67 of Title 16 of the Oklahoma  
7 Statutes. Pursuant to Sections 82 and 83 of Title 16 of the  
8 Oklahoma Statutes, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the  
9 facts stated in the recorded affidavit are true as they relate to  
10 the severed mineral interest, the death of the decedent, and the  
11 relationships, family history and heirship stated therein.

12 E. Any person who knowingly submits and signs a false affidavit  
13 as provided in this section shall be fined not more than Three  
14 Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than six (6)  
15 months, or both. ~~Restitution~~ In addition, restitution of the amount  
16 fraudulently attained shall be made to the rightful beneficiary by  
17 the guilty person.

18 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 58 O.S. 2021, Section 394, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 394. The person or entity paying, delivering,  
21 transferring, or issuing personal property or the evidence thereof  
22 to the successor or successors named in the affidavit is discharged  
23 and released to the same extent as if the person or entity dealt  
24 with a personal representative of the decedent. Such person or

1 entity is not required to inquire into the truth of any statement in  
2 the affidavit. If any person or entity to whom an affidavit is  
3 delivered refuses to pay, deliver, transfer, or issue any personal  
4 property or evidence thereof, it may be recovered or its payment,  
5 delivery, transfer, or issuance compelled upon proof of their right  
6 in a proceeding brought for the purpose by or on behalf of the  
7 persons entitled thereto. Any person to whom payment, delivery,  
8 transfer, or issuance is made is answerable and accountable therefor  
9 to any personal representative of the estate or to any other person  
10 having a superior right.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

12 Passed the Senate the 22nd day of February, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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16 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
17 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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