

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 POLICY COMMITTEE  
4 RECOMMENDATION

5 FOR

6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1564

By: Duel

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8 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to civil procedure; creating the  
10 Oklahoma Expedited Actions Act; providing for  
11 application of expedited actions process; providing  
12 for recovery; providing process for removal of case  
13 from expedited actions process; providing process for  
14 governing discovery; providing for trial setting;  
15 providing time limits for trial; providing  
16 definition; providing alternative dispute resolution;  
17 providing for challenging admissibility of expert  
18 testimony; providing for codification; and providing  
19 an effective date.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1775 of Title 12, unless there  
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 Section 1775 et seq. shall be known and may be cited as the  
"Oklahoma Expedited Actions Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1776 of Title 12, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The expedited actions process provided for in Section 1 of  
5 this act applies to a suit in which all claimants, other than  
6 counter-claimants, affirmatively plead that they seek only monetary  
7 relief aggregating Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00)  
8 or less, excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and  
9 penalties, and attorney fees and costs.

10 B. In no event may a party who prosecutes a suit under this act  
11 recover a judgment in excess of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
12 (\$250,000.00), excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and  
13 penalties, and attorney fees and costs.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1777 of Title 12, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. A court shall remove a suit from the expedited actions  
18 process:

- 19 1. On motion and a showing of good cause by any party; or
- 20 2. If any claimant, other than a counter-claimant, files a  
21 pleading or an amended or supplemental pleading that seeks any  
22 relief other than the monetary relief allowed by Section 2 of this  
23 act.

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1 B. A pleading, amended pleading, or supplemental pleading that  
2 removes a suit from the expedited actions process may not be filed  
3 without leave of court unless it is filed before the earlier of  
4 thirty (30) days after the discovery period is closed or thirty (30)  
5 days before the date is set for trial. Leave to amend may be  
6 granted only if good cause for filing the pleading outweighs any  
7 prejudice to an opposing party.

8 C. If a suit is removed from the expedited actions process, the  
9 court shall reopen discovery.

10 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1778 of Title 12, unless there  
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. Every case that follows the expediated actions process shall  
14 be governed by the discovery control plan provided for in this  
15 Section. Discovery is subject to the limitations provided for in  
16 Section 3226 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes and to the  
17 following additional limitations:

18 1. In a suit not governed by Title 43 of the Oklahoma  
19 Statutes, all discovery must be conducted during the discovery  
20 period, which begins when the first initial disclosures are due and  
21 continues for one hundred eighty (180) days. In a suit governed by  
22 Title 43 of the Oklahoma Statutes, all discovery must be conducted  
23 during the discovery period, which begins when the suit is filed and  
24

1 continues until one hundred eighty (180) days after the first  
2 request for discovery of any kind is served on a party;

3 2. Each party may have no more than twenty (20) hours in total  
4 to examine and cross-examine all witnesses in oral depositions. The  
5 court may modify the deposition hours so that no party is given  
6 unfair advantage;

7 3. Any party may serve on any other party no more than fifteen  
8 (15) written interrogatories, excluding interrogatories asking a  
9 party only to identify or authenticate specific documents. Each  
10 discrete subpart of an interrogatory is considered a separate  
11 interrogatory;

12 4. Any party may serve on any other party no more than fifteen  
13 (15) written requests for production. Each discrete subpart of a  
14 request for production is considered a separate request for  
15 production; and

16 5. Any party may serve on any other party no more than fifteen  
17 (15) written requests for admissions. Each discrete subpart of a  
18 request for admission is considered a separate request for  
19 admission.

20 B. If a suit is removed from the expedited actions process or,  
21 in a divorce, the filing of a pleading renders this subdivision no  
22 longer applicable, the discovery period reopens, and discovery must  
23 be completed within the limitations provided in Section 3226 of  
24 Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Any person previously deposed

1 may be redeposed. On motion of any party, the court should continue  
2 the trial date if necessary to permit completion of discovery.

3 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1779 of Title 12, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 On any party's request, the court shall set the case for a trial  
7 date that is within ninety (90) days after the discovery period  
8 ends. The court may continue the case twice, not to exceed a total  
9 of sixty (60) days.

10 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1780 of Title 12, unless there  
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. Each side is allowed no more than eight (8) hours to  
14 complete jury selection, opening statements, presentation of  
15 evidence, examination and cross-examination of witnesses, and  
16 closing arguments. On motion and a showing of good cause by any  
17 party, the court may extend the time limit to no more than twelve  
18 (12) hours per side.

19 B. The term "side" is not synonymous with "party", "litigant",  
20 or "person". Rather, "side" means one or more litigants who have  
21 common interests on the matters with which the jury is concerned.

22 C. Time spent on objections, bench conferences, bills of  
23 exception, and challenges for cause to a juror are not included in  
24 the time limit.

1 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1781 of Title 12, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. Unless the parties have agreed not to engage in alternative  
5 dispute resolution, the court may refer the case to an alternative  
6 dispute resolution procedure once, and the procedure shall:

7 1. Not exceed a half-day in duration, excluding scheduling  
8 time;

9 2. Not exceed a total cost of twice the amount of applicable  
10 civil filing fees; and

11 3. Be completed no later than sixty (60) days before the  
12 initial trial setting.

13 B. The court shall consider objections to the referral unless  
14 prohibited by statute.

15 C. The parties may agree to engage in alternative dispute  
16 resolution other than that provided for in subsection A of this  
17 section.

18 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1782 of Title 12, unless there  
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 Unless requested by the party sponsoring the expert, a party may  
22 only challenge the admissibility of expert testimony as an objection  
23 to summary judgment evidence during a pretrial conference or during  
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1 the trial on the merits. This section does not apply to a motion to  
2 strike for late designation.

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

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