

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1564

By: Duel of the House

3 and

4 Howard of the Senate  
5  
6

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

18 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 1775 of Title 12, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
23 Expedited Actions Act".

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

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

7       B. In no event may a party who prosecutes a suit under this act  
8 recover a judgment in excess of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
9 (\$250,000.00), excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and  
10 penalties, and attorney fees and costs.

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

14       A. A court shall remove a suit from the expedited actions  
15 process:

16       1. On motion and a showing of good cause by any party; or

17       2. If any claimant, other than a counter-claimant, files a  
18 pleading or an amended or supplemental pleading that seeks any  
19 relief other than the monetary relief allowed by Section 2 of this  
20 act.

21       B. A pleading, amended pleading, or supplemental pleading that  
22 removes a suit from the expedited actions process may not be filed  
23 without leave of court unless it is filed before the earlier of  
24 thirty (30) days after the discovery period is closed or thirty (30)

1 days before the date is set for trial. Leave to amend may be  
2 granted only if good cause for filing the pleading outweighs any  
3 prejudice to an opposing party.

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

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

9 A. Every case that follows the expedited actions process shall  
10 be governed by the discovery control plan provided for in this  
11 section. Discovery is subject to the limitations provided for in  
12 Section 3226 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes and to the  
13 following additional limitations:

14 1. In a suit not governed by Title 43 of the Oklahoma  
15 Statutes, all discovery must be conducted during the discovery  
16 period, which begins when the first initial disclosures are due and  
17 continues for one hundred eighty (180) days. In a suit governed by  
18 Title 43 of the Oklahoma Statutes, all discovery must be conducted  
19 during the discovery period, which begins when the suit is filed and  
20 continues until one hundred eighty (180) days after the first  
21 request for discovery of any kind is served on a party;

22 2. Each party may have no more than twenty (20) hours in total  
23 to examine and cross-examine all witnesses in oral depositions. The  
24

1 court may modify the deposition hours so that no party is given  
2 unfair advantage;

3 3. Any party may serve on any other party no more than fifteen  
4 written interrogatories, excluding interrogatories asking a party  
5 only to identify or authenticate specific documents. Each discrete  
6 subpart of an interrogatory is considered a separate interrogatory;

7 4. Any party may serve on any other party no more than fifteen  
8 written requests for production. Each discrete subpart of a request  
9 for production is considered a separate request for production; and

10 5. Any party may serve on any other party no more than fifteen  
11 written requests for admissions. Each discrete subpart of a request  
12 for admission is considered a separate request for admission.

13 B. If a suit is removed from the expedited actions process or,  
14 in a divorce, the filing of a pleading renders this subdivision no  
15 longer applicable, the discovery period reopens, and discovery must  
16 be completed within the limitations provided in Section 3226 of  
17 Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Any person previously deposed  
18 may be redeposed. On motion of any party, the court should continue  
19 the trial date if necessary to permit completion of discovery.

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

23 On any party's request, the court shall set the case for a trial  
24 date that is within ninety (90) days after the discovery period

1 ends. The court may continue the case twice, not to exceed a total  
2 of sixty (60) days.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24

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

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

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

7 B. The court shall consider objections to the referral unless  
8 prohibited by statute.

9 C. The parties may agree to engage in alternative dispute  
10 resolution other than that provided for in subsection A of this  
11 section.

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

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

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

21

22

23

24

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of March, 2025.

2  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the House  
5 of Representatives

6 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

7  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the Senate