

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1664

By: Cantrell of the House

and

Alvord of the Senate

7
8
9
10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to county commissioners; amending 19
12 O.S. 2021, Section 326, which relates to meetings;
13 exempting county commissioners from certain Open
14 Meeting Act requirements; allowing county
15 commissioners to discuss administrative, operational,
16 and procedural matters in certain circumstances;
17 clarifying limits to exemption; allowing county
18 commissioners to participate in conferences,
19 trainings, and events under certain circumstances;
20 authorizing county commissioners to participate in
21 legislative meetings in certain circumstances;
22 authorizing county commissioners to discuss budgetary
23 matters in certain circumstances; amending 56 O.S.
24 2021, Section 625.2, which relates to the Statewide
 Independent Living Council; allowing Council
 videoconferencing under certain circumstances;
 permitting the Council to conduct executive sessions
 by videoconference under certain circumstances; and
 declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 326, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 326. A. In addition to the special sessions for
4 equalizing assessments, and all other special sessions now provided
5 by law, the county commissioners shall meet and hold sessions for
6 the transaction of business in the county courthouse, at the county
7 seat, on or before the first Monday of each month, and may remain in
8 session as long as the public business may require, and the passing
9 upon, allowing or rejecting of bills against the county shall be
10 taken up and passed upon by the board in the order in which the
11 claims have been filed, and in which order such claims must be
12 entered upon the calendar, except salary, wage and compensation
13 claims of officers and deputies and employees, which salary, wage
14 and compensation claims may be considered and paid, on or after the
15 termination of the service pay period; provided, that such claims by
16 subordinate deputies and employees be first approved by the officer
17 having charge of the office or department. The board of county
18 commissioners may recess or adjourn its meetings within the session,
19 either from time to time or from day to day, or on call of the
20 chairman; but, if such board does not sooner adjourn its session for
21 any month, such session shall terminate and be adjourned by
22 operation of law on the last business day of such month. If the
23 board shall have adjourned its session before the last business day
24 of any month, the county clerk shall have power to call special

1 sessions when the best interests of the county demand it, upon
2 giving five (5) days' notice of the time and object of calling the
3 commissioners together, by posting up notices in three public places
4 in the county, or by publication in some newspaper of general
5 circulation in the county; provided, that in the case of a vacancy
6 in the office of county clerk, the ~~chairman~~ chair of the board shall
7 have power to call a special session for the purpose of filling such
8 vacancy.

9 B. The board of county commissioners may meet at times and in
10 places within the county other than the county courthouse if it is
11 determined that such meetings are beneficial to the general public.
12 Such meetings shall be in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting
13 Act.

14 C. County commissioners may attend and participate in
15 conferences, trainings, and educational, press, and social events,
16 even if a quorum is present, provided that no official action is
17 taken and any discussion of the business of the board of county
18 commissioners is incidental to the event.

19 D. County commissioners may attend and participate in meetings
20 and proceedings of the Legislature, even if a quorum is present,
21 provided that no official action is taken.

22 E. In budget board counties, county commissioners and other
23 county elected officers may discuss budgetary matters provided that
24

1 a quorum of the county budget board is not present, and no official
2 action is taken.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2021, Section 625.2, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 625.2. A. There is hereby created the Statewide
6 Independent Living Council which shall be established pursuant to
7 the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, codified
8 at 29 U.S.C., Section 701 et seq., as amended.

9 B. The duties of the Council shall be those as set forth in the
10 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

11 C. Subject to the availability of state funds other than those
12 appropriated to the Department of Rehabilitation Services for the
13 purpose of providing independent living services to its clients, and
14 in accordance with the State Plan for Independent Living, the
15 Department of Rehabilitation Services, in joint effort with the
16 Statewide Independent Living Council, may contract with independent
17 living centers for the purpose of providing independent living
18 services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

19 D. The Council shall be permitted to hold meetings through
20 videoconferencing, provided that:

21 1. Each member of the Council is audible or visible to each
22 other and the public;

23 2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the
24 meeting, as required by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, shall

1 indicate if the meeting will include videoconferencing and shall
2 also state:

3 a. each Council member appearing remotely, and

4 b. the identity of the Council member or members who will
5 be physically present at the meeting site, if any;

6 3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted
7 as required by law, Council members shall not be permitted to alter
8 their method of attendance; provided, however, those members who
9 were identified as appearing remotely may be permitted to physically
10 appear at the meeting site, if any, for the meeting;

11 4. The Council shall be permitted to participate and speak, as
12 allowed by rule or policy set by the Council, in a meeting which
13 utilizes teleconference or videoconference in the same manner and to
14 the same extent as the public is allowed to participate or speak
15 during a meeting where all public body members are physically
16 present together at the meeting site;

17 5. Unless confidential or privileged by applicable law, any
18 documents or other materials provided to members of the Council or
19 shared electronically between members of the Council during a
20 meeting utilizing teleconferencing or videoconferencing shall also
21 be immediately available to the public on the Council's website;

22 6. All votes occurring during any meeting utilizing
23 teleconference or videoconference shall occur and be recorded by
24 roll call votes;

1 7. The Council abides by all other requirements of the Oklahoma
2 Open Meeting Act.

3 E. The Council is permitted to conduct an executive session by
4 videoconference. For such executive sessions, no Council member is
5 required to be physically present so long as each Council member is
6 audible or visible to each other. The meeting notice and agenda
7 prepared in advance of the meeting as required by law shall indicate
8 if the executive session will include videoconferencing and shall
9 also state the identity of each Council member appearing remotely,
10 and whether any member will be physically present at the meeting
11 site, if any, for the executive session.

12 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16
17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT, dated
18 03/03/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

19
20
21
22
23
24