

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1664

6 By: Cantrell

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

Section 326. A. In addition to the special sessions for  
equalizing assessments, and all other special sessions now provided

1 by law, the county commissioners shall meet and hold sessions for  
2 the transaction of business in the county courthouse, at the county  
3 seat, on or before the first Monday of each month, and may remain in  
4 session as long as the public business may require, and the passing  
5 upon, allowing or rejecting of bills against the county shall be  
6 taken up and passed upon by the board in the order in which the  
7 claims have been filed, and in which order such claims must be  
8 entered upon the calendar, except salary, wage and compensation  
9 claims of officers and deputies and employees, which salary, wage  
10 and compensation claims may be considered and paid, on or after the  
11 termination of the service pay period; provided, that such claims by  
12 subordinate deputies and employees be first approved by the officer  
13 having charge of the office or department. The board of county  
14 commissioners may recess or adjourn its meetings within the session,  
15 either from time to time or from day to day, or on call of the  
16 chairman; but, if such board does not sooner adjourn its session for  
17 any month, such session shall terminate and be adjourned by  
18 operation of law on the last business day of such month. If the  
19 board shall have adjourned its session before the last business day  
20 of any month, the county clerk shall have power to call special  
21 sessions when the best interests of the county demand it, upon  
22 giving five (5) days' notice of the time and object of calling the  
23 commissioners together, by posting up notices in three public places  
24 in the county, or by publication in some newspaper of general

1 circulation in the county; provided, that in the case of a vacancy  
2 in the office of county clerk, the ~~chairman~~ chair of the board shall  
3 have power to call a special session for the purpose of filling such  
4 vacancy.

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

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

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

18 E. In budget board counties, county commissioners and other  
19 county elected officers may discuss budgetary matters provided that  
20 a quorum of the county budget board is not present, and no official  
21 action is taken.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the  
20 meeting, as required by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, shall  
21 indicate if the meeting will include videoconferencing and shall  
22 also state:

23 a. each Council member appearing remotely, and  
24

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

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

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

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

19           6. All votes occurring during any meeting utilizing  
20 teleconference or videoconference shall occur and be recorded by  
21 roll call votes;

22           7. The Council abides by all other requirements of the Oklahoma  
23 Open Meeting Act.

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

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

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