

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 1568

By: Duel

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to criminal procedure; amending 22
8 O.S. 2021, Section 340, which relates to procedures
9 for advising grand juries; providing limitations on
10 the use of grand jury transcripts; establishing
11 notice and hearing procedures for releasing grand
12 jury transcripts; making hearings closed to the
13 public; providing an exception; providing limitations
14 on representing certain parties; allowing
15 prosecutions concurrent to civil litigation related
16 to grand jury transcripts; allowing the disclosure of
17 transcribed testimony to witnesses under certain
18 circumstances; making witnesses subject to
19 restrictions on disclosure; providing penalties for
20 violations; and providing an effective date.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2021, Section 340, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 Section 340. A. The grand jury may at all reasonable times ask
the advice of the court or of the district attorney. In no event
shall the grand jury be advised as to the sufficiency or
insufficiency of the evidence necessary to return a true bill, in a
matter under investigation before them. The district attorney, with

1 or without a regularly appointed assistant district attorney
2 individually or collectively, or if the district attorney and all of
3 his or her assistants are disqualified for any reason, a district
4 attorney or assistant district attorney from another district,
5 appointed by the Attorney General of Oklahoma pursuant to Sections
6 215.9 and 215.13 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and where
7 proper, the Attorney General, or an assistant attorney general, may
8 at all times appear before the grand jury for the purpose of giving
9 information or advice relative to any matter cognizable before them
10 and may interrogate witnesses before them whenever he or she thinks
11 it necessary. A qualified court reporter shall be present and take
12 the testimony of all witnesses.

13 B. Upon request, a transcript of the testimony or any portion
14 thereof shall be made available to ~~an~~ the attorney for the accused
15 ~~or~~, the district attorney, assistant district attorney, the attorney
16 general, or assistant attorney general, at the expense of the
17 requesting party or officer, ~~and, in.~~ In the event of an indigent
18 accused, ~~at~~ the expense ~~of~~ for the transcript shall be borne by the
19 state in the same manner and from the same funds as indigent
20 representation. Any attorney or other person who obtains a copy of
21 a grand jury transcript shall ~~not reproduce the transcript in whole~~
22 ~~or in part or otherwise disclose~~ be prohibited from disclosing its
23 contents to any person other than his or her attorney ~~without leave~~
24 ~~of~~ in the court criminal proceeding, related asset forfeiture

1 proceeding, or removal proceeding. A transcript obtained pursuant
2 to this subsection shall not be used for any purpose other than in
3 proceedings relating to the grand jury testimony, civil asset
4 forfeiture proceedings related to an indictment from the grand jury,
5 or an accusation for removal of a public official from the grand
6 jury, or in preparation for those proceedings, without good cause
7 shown supported by clear and convincing evidence after written
8 motion and hearing before the judge presiding over the grand jury.
9 The prosecutor serving as a legal advisor to the grand jury shall
10 receive timely notice of the motion and hearing and be allowed an
11 opportunity to object to any order of release of grand jury
12 transcripts. The pleadings relating to a request for grand jury
13 transcripts shall be sealed and any hearing held pursuant to a
14 request for grand jury transcripts shall be closed to the public
15 unless the presiding judge of the grand jury finds that the public
16 interest in unsealing the pleadings or opening the hearing to the
17 public outweighs the public interest in maintaining the secrecy of
18 the grand jury investigation. Except in a civil asset forfeiture
19 proceeding related to a grand jury indictment, an attorney who
20 obtains a copy of a grand jury transcript pursuant to this
21 subsection shall be precluded from representing any party in a civil
22 case related to the grand jury testimony or using the grand jury
23 transcripts to the benefit or detriment of a party in a civil
24 proceeding. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the attorney

1 general or a district attorney from prosecuting an indictment or
2 accusation for removal while his or her office is or has been
3 engaged in related civil litigation provided that the grand jury
4 transcripts or its contents are not provided or disclosed to the
5 staff of the attorney general or district attorney involved in the
6 civil litigation. Nor does this subsection prohibit the attorney
7 for the accused, district attorney, assistant district attorney, the
8 attorney general, or assistant attorney general from providing to a
9 witness the transcribed grand jury testimony of that witness for the
10 sole purpose of preparing the witness for his or her subsequent
11 testimony at a trial or hearing arising out of a grand jury
12 indictment, accusation for removal, or civil asset forfeiture action
13 related to a grand jury indictment. The witness who is provided a
14 transcript of his or her testimony shall be subject to the same
15 restrictions on disclosure as any other person. Violation of this
16 provision subsection shall be a misdemeanor and may also be
17 punishable as contempt. Provided, nothing in this section shall
18 prohibit the attorney for the accused, the district attorney or
19 assistant district attorney from reproducing in whole or in part the
20 transcribed testimony of a witness he or she anticipates calling to
21 testify at trial and providing same to said witness for the sole
22 purpose of preparing for trial.

23 C. No other person is permitted to be present during sessions
24 of the grand jury except the members of the grand jury, the witness

1 actually under examination, and one attorney representing such
2 witness, except that an interpreter, when necessary, may be present
3 during the interrogation of a witness; provided that, no person,
4 except the members of the grand jury, shall be permitted to be
5 present during the expression of juror opinions or the giving of
6 votes upon any matter before the grand jury; provided further that
7 neither the district attorney, nor an assistant district attorney,
8 may be present or participate in an official capacity, as herein
9 provided, during an investigation by the grand jury of the district
10 attorney's office, or of any person officially associated with said
11 office.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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