

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1407

By: Pfeiffer

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to revenue and taxation; prohibiting
9 decrease in certain assessment ratios without prior
10 notification; prescribing procedures for
11 notification; requiring newspaper publication;
12 prescribing certain content of published notice;
13 requiring public meetings; requiring county assessor
14 or designee to attend meetings; providing for
15 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2819.1 of Title 68, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. No county assessor may decrease the assessment ratio used to
21 compute the taxable value of real or personal property unless the
22 assessor provides written notice of an intent to decrease the
23 assessment ratio at least ninety (90) days prior to the first date
24 as of which the assessor intends to cause such ratio to be
decreased. The written notice shall be mailed by certified mail

1 with return receipt requested to the county treasurer, the county
2 clerk, the county sheriff, to each of the county commissioners and
3 to the governing board of any local government jurisdiction that
4 levies ad valorem taxes upon any property located within the county.
5 Such notice shall be mailed not later than sixty (60) days prior to
6 the expiration of the ninety-day period prescribed by this
7 subsection. The notice shall clearly state the assessment ratio in
8 effect prior to the decrease, the category of property (whether real
9 or personal or both) to be affected by the proposed decrease in
10 assessment ratio and the date as of which such decrease is proposed
11 to take effect.

12 B. The county assessor shall also be required to publish a
13 notice of intent to decrease the assessment ratio which clearly
14 states the ratio in effect prior to the decrease, the category of
15 property (whether real or personal or both) to be affected by the
16 proposed decrease in assessment ratio and the date as of which such
17 decrease is proposed to take effect. The notice shall be placed at
18 least one time for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of
19 general circulation in the county in which the assessor holds
20 office. The last publication date shall be not later than thirty
21 (30) days prior to the date that any decrease in the assessment
22 ratio is implemented. At the beginning of the notice to be
23 published, there shall appear in a font which is conspicuously
24 larger than the other information which appears in the notice the

1 following wording: "NOTICE OF INTENT TO DECREASE ASSESSMENT RATIO
2 WITH RESPECT TO REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR BOTH IN [insert
3 applicable county name] FOR THE [insert applicable year] ASSESSMENT
4 YEAR".

5 C. Before the county assessor may implement a decrease in an
6 assessment ratio with respect to either real or personal property,
7 there shall be at least three public meetings held at a location
8 within the county prior to the date as of which the first decrease
9 in assessment ratio occurs. Notice of the meetings shall be posted
10 in the office of the county assessor, the office of the county
11 treasurer, the offices of each county commissioner, the office of
12 the county clerk and such other places within the county as may be
13 feasible in order to provide adequate notice of the date, time and
14 location of each meeting. The last public meeting shall be held not
15 later than thirty (30) days prior to the date any decrease in the
16 applicable assessment ratio is implemented.

17 D. The county assessor or a designee from the office of the
18 county assessor shall attend each of the public meetings in order to
19 answer questions about the proposed decrease in the assessment ratio
20 and any possible effects on the budgets of any ad valorem taxing
21 jurisdiction.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.
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