

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 1474

By: Sneed

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to prisons and reformatories;
8 amending 57 O.S. 2021, Sections 503 and 506, which
9 relate to the State Board of Corrections; changing
10 manner by which members are appointed to the State
11 Board of Corrections; providing terms of office;
12 providing for removal from the Board; requiring the
filling of vacancies; changing manner by which the
Director of Corrections is appointed; providing for
removal from position of Director; deleting power of
the Governor to determine compensation; and providing
an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 503, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 503. There is hereby created the State Board of
19 Corrections which shall be the governing board of the Department of
20 Corrections. The Board shall consist of ~~the following nine (9)~~
21 ~~members:~~

22 ~~1. Five members appointed by the Governor;~~

23 ~~2. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of~~

24 ~~Representatives; and~~

1 ~~3. Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the~~
2 ~~Senate.~~

3 ~~Each member shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing~~
4 ~~authority and may be removed or replaced without cause. Any member~~
5 ~~of the Board shall be prohibited from voting on any issue in which~~
6 ~~the member has a direct financial interest. The Director of~~
7 ~~Corrections shall be an ex officio member of the Board, but shall be~~
8 ~~entitled to vote only in case of a tie vote seven (7) members who~~
9 ~~shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of~~
10 ~~the Senate. One member shall be appointed from each congressional~~
11 ~~district and any remaining members shall be appointed from the state~~
12 ~~at large. However, when congressional districts are redrawn, each~~
13 ~~member appointed prior to July 1 of the year in which such~~
14 ~~modification becomes effective shall complete the current term of~~
15 ~~office, and appointments made after July 1 of the year in which such~~
16 ~~modification becomes effective shall be based on the redrawn~~
17 ~~districts. Appointments made after July 1 of the year in which such~~
18 ~~modification becomes effective shall be from any redrawn districts~~
19 ~~which are not represented by a board member until such time as each~~
20 ~~of the modified congressional districts are represented by a board~~
21 ~~member. No appointments may be made after July 1 of the year in~~
22 ~~which such modification becomes effective if such appointment would~~
23 ~~result in more than two members serving from the same modified~~
24 ~~district. The terms of office of two members shall expire on March~~

1 15, 2025, and each six (6) years thereafter; the terms of two
2 members shall expire on March 15, 2027, and each six (6) years
3 thereafter; and the terms of three members shall expire on March 15,
4 2029, and each six (6) years thereafter. Not more than four members
5 of the Board shall be of the same political party. Any member of
6 the Board may be removed from office in the manner provided by law
7 for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment. Vacancies
8 on the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term.

9 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 506, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Section 506. There is hereby created the position of Director
12 of Corrections. The Director shall be qualified for such position
13 by character, knowledge, skill, ability, education, training and
14 successful administrative experience and shall have five (5) years
15 of professional-level work. The Director of Corrections shall be
16 appointed by the Governor ~~with the advice and consent of the Senate~~
17 ~~and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor and may be removed~~
18 ~~or replaced without cause. Compensation for the Director shall be~~
19 ~~determined by the Governor. The Director may be removed from office~~
20 ~~by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members elected to and~~
21 ~~constituting each chamber of the Legislature~~ Board of Corrections,
22 with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be subject to
23 removal by a vote of the majority of the entire Board or in the
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1 manner provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to
2 impeachment.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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5 59-1-5201 GRS 12/19/22

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