

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 539

By: Sparks

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the State Legislature; stating
8 authority under which section enacted; creating Joint
9 Legislative Committee on Investigations; providing
10 for membership, meetings, chairs and organization of
11 Committee; stating purpose; providing procedures for
conduct of investigations; specifying authority of
Committee; requiring certain reports; providing for
referral of findings; providing for codification; and
providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 465 of Title 74, unless there is
17 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. This section is hereby enacted pursuant to the authority of
19 each house of the Legislature to punish its members for disorderly
20 behavior and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member,
21 pursuant to the provisions of Section 30 of Article V of the
22 Oklahoma Constitution.

23 B. The Joint Legislative Committee on Investigations is hereby
24 created. The Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members, three

1 of whom shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
2 Senate, three of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House
3 of Representatives, three of whom shall be appointed by the Minority
4 Leader of the Senate and three of whom shall be appointed by the
5 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. Members shall
6 serve from the time of their appointment until December 31 of the
7 next even-numbered year. Any vacancy shall be filled by the
8 original appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired
9 period of service.

10 C. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of
11 the House of Representatives shall each designate a co-chair of the
12 Committee. Meetings shall be held at the joint call of the co-
13 chairs and shall be held in conformance with the provisions of the
14 Open Meeting Act.

15 D. The purpose of the Committee shall be to investigate any
16 allegation of a violation of the law, any policy of either house of
17 the Legislature or any other impropriety which may have been
18 committed by a member of the Legislature. Any member of the
19 Legislature may request that an investigation be conducted by the
20 Committee by filing a written request therefor with the co-chairs.
21 The Committee shall proceed with such an investigation upon a
22 majority vote of the members present, which shall be not less than a
23 quorum. If a member of the Committee is named in any allegation
24 brought before the Committee, the appointing authority shall appoint

1 a replacement for such member for the purposes of investigation or
2 action on such allegation.

3 E. The Committee shall be authorized to issue process, compel
4 attendance of witnesses and to administer oaths to any person
5 appearing before the Committee.

6 F. The Committee shall issue a report on its findings to the
7 presiding officer of the house of the Legislature of which any
8 person named in any allegation is a member, in order for such house
9 to exercise its authority under Section 30 of Article V of the
10 Oklahoma Constitution. The Committee is further authorized to refer
11 its findings to any civil or criminal authority for further action.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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