

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 958

 By: Coleman of the Senate

 and

 Burns of the House

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9 An Act relating to fire protection districts;
10 amending 19 O.S. 2011, Section 901.7, which relates
11 to the powers and duties of the directors;
12 authorizing the acquisition of certain certification
13 or license; providing for certain contract;
14 authorizing response outside certain boundaries with
15 certain documentation; and providing an effective
16 date.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2011, Section 901.7, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 901.7. A. The board of directors shall have the power
21 and duty to:

- 22 1. Manage and conduct the business affairs of such district;
23 2. Make and execute all necessary contracts;
24 3. Purchase or lease-purchase and maintain all necessary and
 convenient engines, hoses, hose carts or other appliances and
 supplies for the full equipment of a fire company or department;

1 4. Appoint fire company officers and employees, sufficient to
2 maintain and operate the equipment owned by such district;

3 5. Take by grant, purchase, condemnation, gift, devise or
4 lease, and to dispose of, real or personal property of every kind
5 necessary for the operation of the district;

6 6. Construct or otherwise acquire suitable firehouses and other
7 buildings or structures suitable for the housing of equipment and
8 supplies of the district, or for carrying on its own business and
9 affairs;

10 7. Employ such officers and employees as may be required, fix
11 their compensation and prescribe their duties;

12 8. Establish rules and regulations for the district and for the
13 prevention of fires and conflagrations within the district and for
14 the protection of property at and during any fire;

15 9. Prepare an annual budget and follow existing laws pertaining
16 to the budget process such as public notices, public hearings,
17 protest periods and filing requirements in the same manner as they
18 apply to other forms of government in Oklahoma;

19 10. Determine vacancies of the board of directors, fill
20 vacancies and conduct board elections in the event of a vacancy on
21 the board of directors;

22 11. Develop bylaws for the due and orderly administration of
23 the affairs of the board of directors and for its responsibilities
24 specified pursuant to this chapter, and may compel the attendance of

1 absent members in the manner and under penalties as the board may
2 prescribe; and

3 12. Do any and all other things necessary and proper in the
4 management and operation of the district for the purpose of
5 protecting property within its boundaries from fire.

6 B. A fire protection district, created pursuant to this
7 chapter, shall be deemed a political subdivision of this state. The
8 board may submit an application to include the fire fighters of the
9 district in the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System.
10 The application for affiliation shall be submitted in accordance
11 with subsection A of Section 49-105.2 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma
12 Statutes.

13 C. The Board of Directors may acquire a certification or
14 license to operate an emergency medical services agency from the
15 State Department of Health or contract for services with a certified
16 or licensed emergency medical service agency. The district's
17 emergency medical service agency may respond outside of the district
18 boundaries; provided, that the political subdivisions having
19 jurisdiction over the area provide to the Department proper
20 documentation of their support.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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23 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, dated 04/06/2021 -
24 DO PASS.