

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

February 11, 2025

SENATE BILL NO. 672

By: McIntosh, Deever, Jett,
and Hamilton

An Act relating to emergency management; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Sections 683.8 and 683.9, which relate to powers and duties of Governor and natural or man-made emergencies; prohibiting Governor from closing businesses under certain circumstances; requiring certain evidence for authorized closure; requiring due process for businesses ordered to close; defining term; updating statutory reference; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 683.8, is amended to read as follows:

Section 683.8. A. The Governor shall have general direction and control of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003. In the event of an emergency that exceeds local capability, the Governor may assume direct operational control over all or any part of the emergency management functions within this state.

B. The Governor shall have general direction and control of emergency management within the state and all officers, boards,

1 agencies, individual or groups established under the Emergency
2 Operations Plan. The Governor shall have the authority pursuant to
3 the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003 to establish such
4 offices, boards, agencies, or positions as may be necessary to carry
5 into effect the Emergency Operations Plan.

6 C. The Governor is authorized to cooperate with the federal
7 government, with other states, and with private agencies in all
8 matters pertaining to the emergency management of this state and of
9 the nation.

10 D. To effect the policy and purpose of the Oklahoma Emergency
11 Management Act of 2003, the Governor is further authorized and
12 empowered to:

13 1. Make, amend, and rescind the necessary orders and rules to
14 carry out the provisions of the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of
15 2003 within the limits of authority conferred upon the Governor
16 herein, with due consideration of the emergency management plans of
17 the federal government;

18 2. Cause to be prepared and updated annually a comprehensive
19 plan and program for emergency management of this state, such plans
20 and programs to be integrated into and coordinated with the plans of
21 the federal government and of other states to the fullest possible
22 extent, and to coordinate the preparation of plans and programs for
23 emergency management by the political subdivisions of this state;

1 3. Procure supplies and equipment in accordance with such plans
2 and programs, institute training programs and public information
3 programs, take all other preparatory steps, including the partial or
4 full activation of emergency management organizations in advance of
5 actual disaster, and to ensure the furnishing of adequately trained
6 and equipped personnel in time of need, during periods of national
7 emergency, or man-made or natural disasters that might occur in this
8 state, or which develop into emergency situations;

9 4. On behalf of this state, enter into mutual aid arrangements
10 with other states and coordinate mutual aid plans between political
11 subdivisions of this state;

12 5. Delegate any administrative authority vested in the Governor
13 pursuant to the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003, and
14 provide for subdelegation of any such authority;

15 6. Confirm the appointment of qualified emergency managers upon
16 recommendations of local authorities as provided in Section 683.11
17 of this title;

18 7. Cooperate with the President of the United States and the
19 heads of the Armed Forces, the Federal Emergency Management Agency,
20 and other appropriate federal officers and agencies, with the
21 officers and agencies of other states in matters pertaining to the
22 emergency management of the state and nation, including the
23 direction and control of:

24 a. state emergency management activations and exercises,

- 1 b. warnings for actual or exercise events and the
2 equipment to be used in connection therewith,
3 c. the conduct of civilians and the movement of and
4 cessation of movement of pedestrians and vehicular
5 traffic during, prior and subsequent to natural and
6 man-made disasters and emergencies,
7 d. public meetings or gatherings, and
8 e. the evacuation and reception of the civil population;
9 and
10 8. Prescribe uniform signals, warnings, alerts, credentials and
11 insignia.

12 E. In addition to prevention measures included in the state and
13 local comprehensive plans and programs for emergency management, the
14 Governor shall consider on a continuing basis steps that could be
15 taken to mitigate the harmful consequences of emergencies and
16 natural disasters. At the Governor's direction and pursuant to any
17 other authority specified by law, state agencies, including, but not
18 limited to, those charged with responsibilities in connection with
19 floodplain management, stream encroachment and flow regulation,
20 weather modification, fire prevention and control, air quality,
21 public works, land use and land use planning, and construction
22 standards, shall make studies of matters related to potential to
23 emergency and man-made or natural disasters or to mitigate emergency
24 and natural disasters. The Governor, from time to time, shall make

1 such recommendations to the Legislature, to political subdivisions
2 and to other appropriate public and private entities as may
3 facilitate measures for mitigation of the harmful consequences of
4 emergencies and natural disasters.

5 F. Pursuant to the Inherent Rights clause in Section 2 of
6 Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution which states "All persons
7 have the inherent right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness,
8 and the enjoyment of the gains of their own industry", during a
9 pandemic under a declared state of emergency by the Governor or the
10 President of the United States, the Governor of this state shall not
11 close or force the closing of any business without documented
12 scientific evidence that the nature of a particular business
13 actually contributes to the direct spreading of disease relating to
14 the pandemic. The Governor shall be required to give notice and
15 hearing to any business determined to be nonessential or detrimental
16 to the health and safety of citizens during a pandemic before
17 issuing an executive order against keeping such business open.

18 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 683.9, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 683.9. The provisions of this section shall be
21 operative only during the existence of a natural or man-made
22 emergency. The existence of such emergency may be proclaimed by the
23 Governor or by concurrent resolution of the Legislature if the
24 Governor in such proclamation, or the Legislature in such

1 resolution, finds that an emergency or disaster has occurred or is
2 anticipated in the immediate future. Any such emergency, whether
3 proclaimed by the Governor or by the Legislature, shall terminate
4 upon the proclamation of the termination thereof by the Governor, or
5 by passage by the Legislature of a concurrent resolution terminating
6 such emergency. During such period as such state of emergency
7 exists or continues, the Governor shall have and may exercise the
8 following additional emergency powers:

9 1. To activate the Emergency Operations Plan, and to assume
10 regulatory control over all essential resources of this state,
11 directly or through the boards, agencies, offices and officers
12 established by the Emergency Operations Plan, to determine
13 priorities of such resources and allocate such resources as the
14 Governor may deem necessary in cooperation with the political
15 subdivisions of this state, the federal government, or other states.

16 For purposes of this paragraph:

- 17 a. "Resources" shall mean "resources" means all economic
18 resources within this state including, but not limited
19 to, food, manpower, health, water, transportation,
20 economic stabilization, electric power, petroleum,
21 gas, and solid fuel, industrial production,
22 construction and housing, and
23 b. "economic stabilization" means the maintaining of the
24 monetary, taxation, and revenue policies of this state

1 without a negative effect to the market economy and
2 its operations and specifically excludes the
3 determination of essential or nonessential private
4 business enterprises or the closing of private
5 business enterprises.

6 2. To enforce all laws, rules and regulations relating to
7 emergency management and to assume direct operational control of any
8 or all emergency management forces and helpers in this state.

9 3. To provide for the evacuation of all or part of the
10 population from any stricken or threatened area or areas within this
11 state and to take such steps as are necessary for the receipt and
12 care of such evacuees.

13 4. Subject to the provisions of the State Oklahoma
14 Constitution, to remove from office any public officer having
15 administrative responsibilities under this act for willful failure
16 to obey any order, rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this act.
17 Such removal shall be upon charges after service upon such person of
18 a copy of such charges and after giving such person an opportunity
19 to be heard in the defense of such person. Pending the preparation
20 and disposition of charges, the Governor may suspend such person for
21 a period not exceeding thirty (30) days. A vacancy resulting from
22 removal or suspension pursuant to this section shall be filled by
23 the Governor until it is filled as otherwise provided by law.

1 5. To perform and exercise such other functions, powers, and
2 duties as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and
3 protection of the civilian population and to carry out the
4 provisions of the Emergency Operations Plan in a national or state
5 emergency.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

7 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
8 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
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