

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1968

By: Williams and **Deck** of the
House

6 and

7 **Bullard** of the Senate

10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 [Pardon and Parole Board - members - Chair -

12 training - compensation - voting - effective date]

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.1, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 332.1. A. The Pardon and Parole Board created by
19 Article VI, Section 10, of the Oklahoma Constitution is authorized
20 to employ professional investigators and such clerical and
21 administrative personnel as may be required to carry out the duties
22 and responsibilities under the provisions of this act.

23 B. The Pardon and Parole Board shall be authorized to employ
24 alternate members to serve on the Board.

1 C. The Chair of the Pardon and Parole Board may assign
2 alternate members to serve in the absence of a regular member and
3 such alternate members shall have all the powers and authority of a
4 regular Pardon and Parole Board member when so assigned.

5 D. Alternate members of the Board shall be appointed as
6 follows:

7 1. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the
8 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and shall have a minimum of not
9 less than five (5) years of experience as a former prosecutor;

10 2. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the
11 Presiding Judge of the Criminal Court of Appeals and shall have a
12 minimum of:

- 13 a. not less than five (5) years of experience as a former
14 public defender, or
15 b. not less than ten (10) years of experience handling
16 felony criminal cases as a defense attorney;

17 3. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the
18 Governor and shall be a former judge of the Oklahoma Court of
19 Criminal Appeals or a former judge of a district court who presided
20 over a criminal court docket;

21 4. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the
22 Governor and shall be a licensed mental health professional with
23 expertise in offender rehabilitation; and

1 5. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the
2 Governor and shall have a minimum of not less than five (5) years of
3 experience as a parole officer or corrections officer.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.1A, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 332.1A. A. Each member and each alternate member of
7 the Pardon and Parole Board shall receive at least twelve (12) hours
8 of training for the first year and six (6) hours of training per
9 year thereafter on matters relating to the duties of the Board. The
10 training shall be provided by personnel of the Pardon and Parole
11 Board.

12 B. Each member and each alternate member of the Pardon and
13 Parole Board shall complete annual training based on guidance from
14 organizations that provide training and technical assistance related
15 to the probation and parole process. Annual training curriculum
16 shall include, but not be limited to, identifying, understanding and
17 targeting criminogenic needs, the principles of effective
18 intervention, core correctional practices and how to support and
19 encourage offender behavior change.

20 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.4, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 332.4. A. Upon the effective date of this act, members
23 of the Pardon and Parole Board shall be deemed regular full-time,
24 salaried employees of the Pardon and Parole Board.

1 B. The Chair of the Pardon and Parole Board shall be selected
2 by the Board. ~~The Chair of the Pardon and Parole Board shall~~
3 ~~receive Twenty-four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$24,800.00) per~~
4 annum, payable monthly, in the following allotment:

5 1. ~~Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) for preparation for said~~
6 meeting; and

7 2. ~~One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-seven Dollars (\$1,667.00) for~~
8 ~~the regular monthly Board meeting.~~

9 B. C. 1. The members of the Board shall receive ~~Twenty-two~~
10 ~~Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$22,800.00)~~ a salary of Eighty-five
11 Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00) per annum, payable monthly ~~in the~~
12 following allotment:

13 1. ~~Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) for preparation for said~~
14 meeting; and

15 2. ~~One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for the~~
16 ~~regular monthly Board meeting.~~

17 2. The alternate members of the Board shall receive a salary of
18 Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$42,500.00) per annum,
19 payable monthly.

20 C. D. 1. Failure of any member to attend ~~one two~~ Board meeting
21 meetings in any calendar year, except for justifiable excuse as
22 determined by the Chair pursuant to written policy established by
23 the Board, shall preclude the right of the member to receive his or

1 her monthly compensation established by subsection A or B of this
2 section.

3 2. In addition, any member who fails to attend ~~two~~ three or
4 more Board meetings in any calendar year except for extraordinary
5 circumstances as determined by the Chair pursuant to written policy
6 established by the Board shall be deemed to have committed official
7 misconduct as such term is defined by Section 93 of Title 51 of the
8 Oklahoma Statutes. To initiate a removal from office pursuant to
9 this paragraph, the Board shall pass a resolution by a majority of
10 the members of the Board detailing the alleged misconduct. Such
11 removal shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 3 of Title 51
12 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

13 3. Failure to attend meetings of the Board, pursuant to the
14 policy established by the Board, shall constitute cause for removal
15 pursuant to Section 10 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution.

16 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.15, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 332.15. A. From and after the effective date of this
19 act, no member or alternate member of the Pardon and Parole Board
20 and/or or their law firm or law partners or associate may represent
21 in a legal capacity any inmate incarcerated in any state penal
22 institution. If a member or alternate member of the Pardon and
23 Parole Board, or his or her law partners or associate or any member
24 of his or her law firm undertakes the representation of an inmate in

1 violation of this prohibition, the member or alternate member of the
2 Board shall forfeit his or her office. In any case in which an
3 inmate requesting a pardon or parole was represented in a legal
4 capacity by any member or alternate member of the Pardon and Parole
5 Board ~~and/or or~~ their law firm or law partners or associate prior to
6 imposition of a prison term, the Board member or alternate Board
7 member who represented such inmate shall be disqualified from voting
8 on ~~such inmate's~~ the request of the inmate for a pardon or parole.

9 B. A member or alternate member of the Pardon and Parole Board
10 shall uphold and promote the independence, impartiality, fairness,
11 and integrity of the Board, and should avoid impropriety or the
12 appearance of impropriety.

13 C. If any Pardon and Parole Board member or alternate member
14 determines circumstances would cause a reasonable person with
15 knowledge of all the relevant facts to question his or her
16 impartiality in a specific matter, or creates the appearance of
17 impropriety, the Pardon and Parole Board member shall disclose any
18 potential conflict of interest and shall withdraw from participation
19 in the matter.

20 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.
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22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
03/06/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.
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