

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE BILL 1365

By: Culver

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to professions and occupations;  
8 amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 396.3, as last amended  
9 by Section 1, Chapter 54, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp.  
10 2024, Section 396.3), which relates to funeral  
11 director and embalmer examinations; establishing the  
12 Oklahoma Funeral Directors and Embalmers  
13 Examinations; and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 396.3, as  
16 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 54, O.S.L. 2023 (59 O.S. Supp.  
17 2024, Section 396.3), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 396.3. A. The Oklahoma Funeral Board shall determine  
19 the qualifications necessary to enable any person to practice as a  
20 funeral director or embalmer, and prescribe the requirements for a  
21 funeral establishment or commercial embalming establishment. The  
22 Board shall examine all applicants for licenses to practice as a  
23 funeral director or embalmer. The Board shall issue the proper  
24 licenses to applicants who successfully pass such examination and

1 qualify pursuant to any additional requirements the Board may  
2 prescribe.

3       B. 1. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, the  
4 minimum requirements for a license to practice funeral directing or  
5 embalming, or both, are as follows:

6           An applicant for a license to practice funeral directing or  
7 embalming shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age, a legal  
8 resident of this state, and a citizen or permanent resident of the  
9 United States. In addition, an applicant shall be a graduate of a  
10 program of mortuary science accredited by the American Board of  
11 Funeral Service Education, and have served one (1) year as a  
12 registered apprentice. The applicant may serve as a registered  
13 apprentice prior to enrollment in an approved school of mortuary  
14 science, or subsequent to graduation from the school, and pass any  
15 of the following relevant exams necessary for licensure: the  
16 International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Board National  
17 Board Science Examination, and/or the International Conference of  
18 Funeral Service Examining Board National Board Arts Examination, the  
19 Oklahoma Funeral Directors Examination, or the Oklahoma Embalmers  
20 Examination with a seventy-five (75) or higher score on each exam.

21           2. Curriculum of study for an embalmer and/or or funeral  
22 director is a program of mortuary science which shall be that  
23 prescribed by the American Board of Funeral Service Education.  
24

1       C. 1. If a person chooses not to meet the qualifications in  
2 subsection B of this section for a funeral director, the person may  
3 alternatively qualify for a license to practice funeral directing,  
4 but not embalming, upon meeting the eligibility requirements of this  
5 subsection as follows:

6           An applicant for a license to practice funeral directing shall  
7 be at least eighteen (18) years of age, a legal resident of this  
8 state, and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. An  
9 applicant is required to complete a funeral director course of study  
10 approved by the Oklahoma Funeral Board and that is administered by a  
11 program of funeral service/mortuary science accredited by the  
12 American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE). The funeral  
13 director course of study shall include at least thirty (30) semester  
14 hours or equivalent closely following the ABFSE curriculum standard,  
15 limited to only: Business Management, Cremation, Social  
16 Sciences/Humanities, Legal, Ethical, Regulatory, plus essential  
17 elements of embalming, restorative art, general concerns when  
18 dealing with human remains, a practicum experience, and preparation  
19 for the required board exams. In addition to the funeral director  
20 course of study, the applicant is required to complete a twelve-  
21 month minimum term as a registered apprentice with employment at a  
22 licensed establishment and must have assisted with twenty-five  
23 arrangement conferences and assisted with twenty-five separate  
24 funeral or memorial services under the supervision of a licensed

1 funeral director in this state. The applicant may serve as a  
2 registered apprentice prior to enrollment in an approved school of  
3 mortuary science, concurrently while in mortuary school, or  
4 subsequent to completion of the funeral director course of study.

5       2. Curriculum of study for a funeral director license shall be  
6 in a program of mortuary science which shall be that prescribed by  
7 the Oklahoma Funeral Board. An applicant must pay all fees as  
8 provided in Section 396.4 of this title and pass an exam provided by  
9 the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Board or  
10 the Oklahoma Funeral Directors Exam with a score of seventy-five  
11 (75) or higher as well as pass a law exam provided by the Oklahoma  
12 Funeral Board, with a score of seventy-five (75) or higher. A  
13 license to practice as a funeral director issued pursuant to this  
14 subsection shall be restricted to funeral director, and the licensee  
15 shall not be eligible to practice as the funeral director in charge  
16 as defined in Section 396.2 of this title.

17       3. If a person chooses not to meet the qualifications in  
18 subsection B of this section for an embalmer, the person may  
19 alternatively qualify for a license to practice embalming, upon  
20 meeting the eligibility requirements of this subsection as follows:

21       An applicant for a license of this state, a citizen or permanent  
22 resident of the United States, and of good moral character. An  
23 applicant is required to complete an embalmer course of study  
24 approved by the Oklahoma Funeral Board and that is administered by a

1 program of funeral service/mortuary science accredited by the  
2 American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE). The embalmer  
3 course of study shall include at least thirty (30) semester hours or  
4 equivalent closely following the ABFSE curriculum standard, limited  
5 to only: Biology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Human Anatomy,  
6 Pathology, Embalming, Embalming Chemistry, and Restorative Art, plus  
7 essential elements of grief, communication, and preparation for the  
8 required board examinations. The applicant must also complete a  
9 twelve-month minimum term as a registered apprentice with full-time  
10 employment at a licensed establishment or licensed commercial  
11 embalming establishment and must have assisted with twenty-five  
12 embalmings under the supervision of a licensed embalmer in this  
13 state. The applicant may serve as a registered apprentice prior to  
14 enrollment in an approved school of mortuary science, concurrently  
15 while in mortuary school, or subsequent to completion of the  
16 embalmer course of study.

17       4. Curriculum of study for an embalmer license shall be in a  
18 program of funeral service/mortuary science which shall be that  
19 prescribed by the Oklahoma Funeral Board. An applicant must pay all  
20 fees as provided in Section 396.4 of this title and pass the  
21 embalmer examination provided by the International Conference of  
22 Funeral Service Examining Board or the Oklahoma Embalmers Exam with  
23 a score of seventy-five (75) or higher as well as pass a law exam  
24 provided by the Oklahoma Funeral Board with a score of seventy-five

1 (75) or higher. A license to practice as an embalmer issued  
2 pursuant to this subsection shall be restricted to embalmer, and the  
3 licensee shall not be eligible to practice as the funeral director  
4 in charge as defined in Section 396.2 of this title.

5 D. The Board shall issue the appropriate license to any  
6 qualified applicant whose application has been approved by the  
7 Board, and who has paid the fees required by Section 396.4 of this  
8 title, has passed the required examinations with a seventy-five (75)  
9 or higher score and has demonstrated to the Board proficiency as an  
10 embalmer or funeral director.

11 E. The Board shall maintain for public inspection a list of all  
12 accredited schools of embalming and mortuary science.

13 F. Each funeral director in charge as defined in Section 396.2  
14 of this title shall have a current dual funeral director and  
15 embalmer license. A funeral director in charge of a funeral service  
16 establishment or crematory that does not have a current dual funeral  
17 director and embalmer license on the effective date of this act  
18 shall be considered to be grandfathered and may serve as funeral  
19 director in charge of any funeral service establishment or crematory  
20 in accordance with rules prescribed by the Board, but shall not  
21 serve as funeral director in charge of a commercial embalming  
22 establishment which shall require a current dual funeral director  
23 and embalmer license.

1       G. Upon ~~the effective date of this act~~ April 23, 2021, and for  
2 one (1) year thereafter, the Board may issue a temporary funeral  
3 director or embalmer license in the event a statewide state of  
4 emergency is declared by the Governor and during such time as the  
5 state of emergency is in effect.

6             SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.  
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