

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

SENATE BILL 1780

By: Treat

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 2011, Section 840-1.7, which relates to the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission; establishing sunset date; making language gender neutral; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2011, Section 840-1.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 840-1.7. A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2021, the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission. Whenever the terms "Ethics and Merit Commission" or "Special Counsel of the Ethics and Merit Commission" appear in the Oklahoma Statutes, they shall mean the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission or the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission as may be appropriate to the context in which they appear. The Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission shall consist of nine (9) members who shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The members shall be removable only for cause, as provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment. Two members of the Commission shall be

1 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Two members
2 of the Commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives. Five members of the Commission shall be appointed
4 by the Governor. No more than four of the appointments made by the
5 Governor shall be from the same political party. Of the initial
6 appointments made to the Commission, one member appointed by the
7 President Pro Tempore, one member appointed by the Speaker and one
8 member appointed by the Governor shall be for a term of three (3)
9 years; and one member appointed by the President Pro Tempore, one
10 member appointed by the Speaker and one member appointed by the
11 Governor shall be for a term of two (2) years. The remaining three
12 initial appointments by the Governor shall be designated to serve a
13 term of one (1) year. At the expiration of the initial term, each
14 new appointee shall serve a three-year term. All initial
15 appointments shall be made prior to July 1, 1982.

16 B. Members of the Commission shall be entitled to reimbursement
17 for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided
18 in the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

19 C. The Commission shall elect a ~~chairman~~ chair, to serve a two-
20 year term and such other officers as deemed necessary for the
21 performance of their duties. The Commission shall hold regular
22 meetings not less than once a month and such additional meetings as
23 called by the ~~chairman~~ chair as may be required for the proper
24 discharge of its duties.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.

2 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
3 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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