An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1127

By: Justice of the Senate

and

Kirby of the House

An Act relating to bail bondsmen; amending 59 O.S. 2011, Sections 1305, 1309 and 1315, which relate to licensure of bail bondsman; modifying qualifications for licensure; granting the Insurance Commissioner the authority to require certain documents to verify certain information; modifying dates; clarifying prohibition to be a bail bondsman; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Bail Bondsmen Licensure

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1305, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1305. A. The application for license to serve as a bail bondsman shall affirmatively show that the applicant:

1. Is a person who has reached the age of twenty-one (21) years;

2. Is ~~of good character and reputation~~ competent, trustworthy, financially responsible, and is of good personal and business reputation and character;

3. Has not been previously convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, any felony, or to a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or dishonesty;

4. Is a citizen of the United States;

5. Has been a bona fide resident of the state for at least one (1) year;

6. Will actively engage in the bail bond business;

7. Has knowledge or experience, or has received instruction in the bail bond business; and

8. Has a high school diploma or its equivalent; provided, however, the provisions of this paragraph shall apply only to initial applications for license submitted on or after November 1, 1997, and shall not apply to renewal applications for license.

B. The applicant shall apply electronically on forms approved by the Insurance Commissioner, and the Commissioner may propound any reasonable interrogatories to an applicant for a license pursuant to Sections 1301 through 1340 of this title, or on any renewal thereof, relating to qualifications, residence, prospective place of business and any other matters which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, are deemed necessary or expedient in order to protect the public and ascertain the qualifications of the applicant. The Commissioner may also conduct any reasonable inquiry or investigation relative to the determination of the fitness of the applicant to be licensed or to continue to be licensed including, but not limited to, requiring a national criminal history record check as defined by Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Commissioner may require any documents reasonably necessary to verify the information in the application.

C. An applicant shall furnish to the Commissioner a license fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) with the application, a complete set of the fingerprints of the applicant and two recent credential-size full face photographs of the applicant. The fingerprints of the applicant shall be certified by an authorized law enforcement officer. The applicant shall provide with the application an investigative fee of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)

with which the Commissioner will conduct an investigation of the applicant. All fees shall be nonrefundable.

D. Failure of the applicant to secure approval of the Commissioner shall not preclude the applicant from reapplying, but a second application shall not be considered by the Commissioner within three (3) months after denial of the last application.

E. The fee for a duplicate pocket license shall be Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00).

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1309, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1309. A. A renewal license shall be issued by the Insurance Commissioner to a licensee who has continuously maintained same in effect, without further examination, upon payment of a renewal fee of Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) for a bail bondsman and proof of completion of sixteen (16) hours of continuing education as required by Section 1308.1 of this title. The renewal fee for licenses expiring September 15, 2012, shall be prorated to the birth month of the bondsman. Thereafter the renewal fee shall be submitted biennially by the last day of the birth month of the bondsman. Such licensee shall in all other respects be required to comply with and be subject to the provisions of Section 1301 et seq. of this title.

B. An individual holding a professional bondsman license shall also provide an annual financial statement prepared by an accounting firm or individual holding a permit to practice public accounting in this state in accordance with generally accepted principles of accounting procedures showing assets, liabilities, and net worth, the annual statement to be as of a date not earlier than ninety (90) days prior to ~~the last day of the birth month of the bondsman~~ September 30. The statements shall be attested to by an unqualified opinion of the accounting firm or individual holding a permit to practice public accounting in this state that prepared the statement or statements. The statement shall be submitted annually by the last day of ~~the birth month of the bondsman~~ September.

C. An individual holding a property bondsman license shall also provide an annual county assessor's written statement stating the

property's assessed value for each property used to post bonds and a written statement from any lien holder stating the current payoff amount on each lien for each property used to post bonds. The written statements shall be submitted annually by the last day of ~~the birth month of the bondsman~~ September.

D. If the license is not renewed or the renewal fee is not paid by the last day of the birth month of the bondsman, the license shall expire automatically pursuant to Section 1304 of this title. After expiration, the license may be reinstated for up to one (1) year following the expiration date. If after the one-year date the license has not been renewed, the licensee shall be required to apply for a license as a new applicant.

E. Reinstatement fees shall be double the original fee.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2011, Section 1315, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1315. A. The following persons or classes shall not be bail bondsmen and shall not directly or indirectly receive any benefits from the execution of any bail bond:

1. Persons convicted of, or who have pled guilty or nolo contendere to, ~~a~~ any felony or to a misdemeanor involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;

2. Jailers;

3. Police officers;

4. Committing judges;

5. Municipal or district court judges;

6. Prisoners;

7. Sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and any person having the power to arrest or having anything to do with the control of federal, state, county or municipal prisoners;

8. Any person who possesses a permit pursuant to the provisions of Section 163.11 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes or is an officer, director or stockholder of any corporation holding such a permit;

9. Any person who is an agent or owner of any establishment at which low-point beer as defined by Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes is sold for on-premises consumption;

10. Any person who holds any license provided for in Section 518 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes or is an agent or officer of any such licensee, except for an individual holding an employee license pursuant to paragraph 20 of subsection A of Section 518 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

11. Any person who holds any license or permit from any city, town, county, or other governmental subdivision for the operation of any private club at which alcoholic beverages are consumed or provided; and

12. Any person or agent of a retail liquor package store.

B. This section shall not apply to a sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, or officer of the law who is not on duty and who assists in the apprehension of a defendant.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to persons possessing permits or licenses pertaining to low-point beer or alcoholic beverages, as defined in Sections 163.2 and 506 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, which were issued prior to May 23, 1984. No one shall be permitted to maintain an office for conducting bail bonds business where low-point beer or alcoholic beverages are sold for on-premises consumption.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2012.

Passed the Senate the 13th day of March, 2012.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of April, 2012.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Governor this 11th

day of April, **20** 12,

at 11:45 **o'clock** A **M.**

By: Jessica R. Rogers

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma the 17th **day of** April, **20** 12, **at** 11:31 **o'clock** A **M.**

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this 17th **day of** April, **20** 12,

at 3:24 **o'clock** P **M.**

By: Michelle R. Day