

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 708

By: Hines

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to fire protection districts; amending 19 O.S. 2021, Section 901.25a, which relates to inclusion when districts are contiguous; allowing for certain consolidation of fire protection districts; providing for certain hearing; requiring certain vote; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 901.25a, is amended to read as follows:

Section 901.25a. A. When the respective territories of any city or town and any district are contiguous they may be included in the limits of the district in the same manner as provided for the organization of fire protection districts. Such territory shall not be included or added to the territory of the district without the consent of the board of directors, certified to the board of county commissioners. In case any such territory is added to the district the property therein shall immediately become subject to the lien for the payment of bonds theretofore authorized by the district in

1 the same manner as property within the district at the time of
2 authorization of such bonds.

3 B. 1. If the board of directors of two or more fire protection
4 districts should determine that the citizens they serve would be
5 equally or better served by the mutual consolidation of the
6 districts into one district, the board of directors of the
7 consolidating districts shall develop a plan for consolidation,
8 including combining board members as provided in Section 901.5 of
9 this title, determining the millage levy of the proposed district,
10 and changing ownership of assets and indebtedness. The board of
11 directors shall present the plan with a resolution for consolidation
12 to the board of county commissioners of any involved counties for
13 their approval.

14 2. Upon the presentation of such petition, the board of county
15 commissioners shall set a hearing for such petition at a time not
16 less than twenty (20) days nor more than forty (40) days from the
17 date of the presentation and shall direct the county clerk to give
18 notice of such hearing by publication in a newspaper of general
19 circulation in the county in which such proposed district is
20 located. Such notice shall be published for two (2) consecutive
21 weeks preceding the date of such hearing. Such notice shall
22 describe the boundaries of the proposed district, shall state the
23 time and place of the hearing, and shall state that any person may
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1 appear and protest the consolidation of the districts or the
2 boundaries of the proposed district.

3 3. The board of county commissioners shall have jurisdiction to
4 hear and determine all protests to the consolidation of the
5 districts and all matters pertaining to the same. At the conclusion
6 of such hearing, the board of county commissioners shall determine
7 whether the consolidation of such districts would be conducive to
8 the public safety of the area incorporated within the boundaries of
9 the proposed district. If the board of county commissioners
10 determines that such district will be conducive to the public safety
11 of the area incorporated therein, then the board of county
12 commissioners shall approve the proposed district.

13 4. Upon approval of the proposed district, the board of county
14 commissioners shall give such proposed district a name and shall
15 call an election of the qualified electors in the territory
16 comprising such proposed district on the question of whether the
17 proposed district shall be consolidated. The county clerk shall
18 cause notice of the election to be given by publication once a week
19 for two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation
20 in the territory comprising the proposed district. Such notice
21 shall state the time and place of holding the election and set forth
22 the description of the boundaries of the proposed district, its
23 general purpose and intention, and the proposed millage levy of such
24 district. Such notice shall require the electors to cast ballots

1 which contain the words: "Consolidated Fire Protection District -
2 Yes", and "Consolidated Fire Protection District - No", or words
3 equivalent thereto. All persons resident of such proposed district,
4 who are qualified electors in their respective precincts, shall be
5 qualified to vote on such proposition.

6 5. Such elections shall be conducted in accordance with the
7 general election laws of the state and the regular election
8 officials shall be in charge at the usual polling place of each
9 regular precinct, or part of a precinct, which shall include lands
10 within the boundaries of such proposed district. The returns of
11 such election shall be made direct to the board of county
12 commissioners who shall meet on the second Monday following such
13 election and proceed to canvass the vote cast. If, upon canvass, it
14 appears that at least three-fifths (3/5) of all the votes cast are
15 "Consolidated Fire Protection District - Yes", the board of county
16 commissioners shall, by order, declare such territory duly organized
17 as a single fire protection district under the designated name.
18 Such order shall be filed for record in the office of the county
19 clerk by the board of county commissioners and from that date such
20 district shall be complete.

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

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