STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 2015 By: Ranson

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AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to protective orders; creating the Oklahoma Extreme Risk Protective Order Act; defining terms; providing procedures for filing petition for firearms restraining order; prohibiting assessment of filing fee; declaring jurisdiction of courts; providing procedures for serving summons and notice of hearings; authorizing requests for ex parte orders and emergency hearings for firearms restraining orders; providing guidelines and procedures for filing and issuing emergency firearms restraining orders; providing for the seizure of firearms and handgun licenses upon finding of probable cause; stating parameters of firearms restraining order; providing procedures for the return of firearms and handgun license upon expiration of order; authorizing transfer of firearms under certain circumstances; providing for six-month restraining orders under certain circumstances; establishing guidelines and procedures; making certain acts unlawful; directing court to consider certain evidence prior to issuing order; authorizing issuance of search warrants; stating parameters of six-month restraining order; providing procedures for the return of firearms and handgun licenses upon expiration of order; authorizing transfer of firearms under certain circumstances; providing for the dissolution of emergency firearms restraining order; allowing subject of order to request termination hearing; providing procedures for termination hearing requests; directing court clerks to enter order on records of the court and file copies with certain entities; directing sheriff or law enforcement to serve order upon respondent; directing sheriffs and law enforcement to submit documents to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation; requiring Bureau to

1 maintain records of firearms restraining orders; authorizing out-of-state orders to be filed by court 2 clerks; making certain acts unlawful; providing penalty; permitting law enforcement to remove weapons when deemed appropriate; providing exemption from 3 civil liability; providing an exception; authorizing the expungement of firearms restraining orders under 4 certain circumstances; repealing 21 O.S. 2021, 5 Sections 1289.24b and 1289.24c, which relates to the Anti-Red Flag Act; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. 6 7 8 9 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 11 A new section of law to be codified SECTION 1. NEW LAW 12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62 of Title 22, unless there is 13 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 14 Sections 1 through 14 of this act shall be known and may be 15 cited as the "Oklahoma Extreme Risk Protective Order Act". 16 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.1 of Title 22, unless there 18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 19 As used in this act: 20 "Family or household members" means: 2.1 spouses, a. 22 b. ex-spouses, 23 C. present spouses of ex-spouses,

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d. parents, including grandparents, stepparents, adoptive parents, and foster parents,

- e. children, including grandchildren, stepchildren, adopted children, and foster children,
- f. persons otherwise related by blood or marriage,
- g. persons living in the same household or who formerly lived in the same household, and
- h. persons who are the biological parents of the same child, regardless of their marital status, or whether they have lived together at any time. This shall include the elderly and handicapped;
- 2. "Firearms restraining order" means an order issued by the court, prohibiting and enjoining a named person from having in his or her custody or control, purchasing, possessing or receiving any firearms;
- 3. "Intimate partner" means a person with whom the respondent has a courtship or engagement relationship. For purposes of this act, a casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context shall not constitute a courtship or engagement relationship;
 - 4. "Petitioner" means:
 - a. intimate partner or a family or household member of the respondent as defined in this act, or

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- b. a law enforcement officer, who files a petition alleging that the respondent poses a danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another by having in his or her custody or control a firearm or the respondent is purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm; and
- 5. "Respondent" means the person alleged in the petition to pose a danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another by having in his or her custody or control a firearm or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm.

- SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.2 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. Actions for a firearms restraining order are commenced by filing a verified petition for a firearms restraining order in any district court.
- B. A petition for a firearms restraining order may be filed in any county where the respondent resides.
- C. No fee shall be charged by the clerk for filing, amending, vacating, certifying, or photocopying petitions or orders. Nor shall any fee be charged for issuing alias summonses or for any related filing service.
- D. No fee shall be charged by the sheriff or other law enforcement for service by the sheriff or other law enforcement of a

petition, rule, motion, or order in an action commenced under the provisions of this act.

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- E. The court shall provide, through the office of the court clerk, simplified forms and clerical assistance to help with the writing and filing of a petition under this act by any person not represented by counsel. In addition, that assistance may be provided by the office of the district attorney.
- SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.3 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
 - A. Each of the district courts shall have the power to issue firearms restraining orders.
 - B. The district courts of this state have jurisdiction to bind state residents and nonresidents having minimum contacts with this state.
 - C. The summons shall require respondent to answer or appear within seven (7) days. Attachments to the summons or notice shall include the petition for the firearms restraining order and supporting affidavits, if any, and any emergency firearms restraining order that has been issued. The enforcement of an order under Section 5 of this act shall not be affected by the lack of service, delivery, or notice, provided the requirements of subsection F of Section 5 of this act are otherwise met.

D. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, notice of hearings on petitions or motions shall be served in accordance with Title 12 O.S., Rule 2 of the District Courts, unless notice is excused by Section 5 of this act, or by the Code of Civil Procedure, Supreme Court rules, or local rules.

- SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.4 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. A petitioner may request an emergency firearms restraining order by filing an affidavit or verified pleading alleging that the respondent poses an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another by having in his or her custody or control a firearm or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm. The petition shall also describe the type and location of any firearm or firearms presently believed by the petitioner to be possessed or controlled by the respondent.
- B. If the respondent is alleged to pose an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury to an intimate partner, or an intimate partner is alleged to have been the target of a threat or act of violence by the respondent, petitioner shall make a goodfaith effort to provide notice to any and all intimate partners of the respondent. The notice must include that the petitioner intends to petition the court for an emergency firearms restraining order, and, if petitioner is a law enforcement officer, referral to

- relevant domestic violence or stalking advocacy or counseling
 resources, if appropriate. The petitioner shall attest to having
 provided the notice in the filed affidavit or verified pleading. If
 after making a good-faith effort petitioner is unable to provide
 notice to any or all intimate partners, the affidavit or verified
 pleading should describe what efforts were made.
 - C. Every person who files a petition for an emergency firearms restraining order, knowing the information provided to the court at any hearing or in the affidavit or verified pleading to be false, is guilty of perjury under Section 491 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

- D. An emergency firearms restraining order shall be issued on an exparte basis, that is, without notice to the respondent.
- E. An emergency hearing held on an ex parte basis shall be held the same day that the petition is filed or the next day that the court is in session.
- F. 1. If a judge finds probable cause to believe that the respondent poses an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another by having in his or her custody or control a firearm or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm the judge shall issue an emergency order. Furthermore, the court shall provide the respondent with information and resource options for community-based mental health treatment.

2. If the court issues an emergency firearms restraining order, it shall, upon a finding of probable cause that the respondent possesses firearms, issue a search warrant directing a law enforcement agency to seize the firearms of the respondent. The court may, as part of that warrant, direct the law enforcement agency to search the residence of the respondent and other places where the court finds there is probable cause to believe he or she is likely to possess the firearms.

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- G. An emergency firearms restraining order shall require:
- 1. The respondent to refrain from having in his or her custody or control a firearm or from purchasing, possessing, or receiving additional firearms for the duration of the order; and
- 2. The respondent to turn over to the local law enforcement agency any handgun license issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act in his or her possession. The local law enforcement agency shall immediately mail the handgun license to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for safekeeping. The firearm and handgun license, if unexpired, shall be returned to the respondent after the firearms restraining order is terminated or expired.
- H. 1. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection, upon expiration of the period of safekeeping, if the firearm or handgun license cannot be returned to respondent because respondent cannot be located, the respondent fails to respond to requests to retrieve the firearms, or the respondent is not lawfully

eligible to possess a firearm, upon petition from the local law
enforcement agency, the court may order the local law enforcement
agency to destroy the firearm, use the firearm for training
purposes, or for any other application as deemed appropriate by the
local law enforcement agency.

- 2. A respondent may petition the court, if the petitioner is present in court or has notice of the petition, to transfer the firearm of the respondent to a person who is lawfully able to possess the firearm if the person does not reside at the same address as the respondent. Notice of the petition shall be served upon the person protected by the emergency firearms restraining order. While the order is in effect, the transferee who receives the firearm of the respondent must swear or affirm by affidavit that he or she shall not transfer the firearm to the respondent or to anyone residing in the same residence as the respondent.
- 3. If a person other than the respondent claims title to any firearm surrendered under this section, he or she may petition the court, if the petitioner is present in court or has notice of the petition, to have the firearm returned to him or her. If the court determines that person to be the lawful owner of the firearm, the firearm shall be returned to him or her, provided that:
 - a. the firearm is removed from the custody, control, or possession of the respondent and the lawful owner agrees to store the firearm in a manner such that the

respondent does not have access to or control of the firearm, and

- b. the firearm is not otherwise unlawfully possessed by the owner.
- 4. The person petitioning for the return of his or her firearm must swear or affirm by affidavit that he or she:
 - a. is the lawful owner of the firearm,

- b. will not transfer the firearm to the respondent, and
- c. will store the firearm in a manner that the respondent does not have access to or control of the firearm.
- I. In accordance with subsection E of this section, the court shall schedule a full hearing as soon as possible, but no longer than fourteen (14) days from the issuance of an ex parte firearms restraining order, to determine if a six-month firearms restraining order shall be issued. The court may extend an ex parte order as needed, but not to exceed fourteen (14) days, to effectuate service of the order or if necessary to continue protection. The court may extend the order for a greater length of time by mutual agreement of the parties.
- SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.5 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. A petitioner may request a six-month firearms restraining order by filing an affidavit or verified pleading alleging that the

respondent poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another in the near future by having in his or her custody or control a firearm or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm. The petition shall also describe the number, types, and locations of any firearms presently believed by the petitioner to be possessed or controlled by the respondent.

- B. If the respondent is alleged to pose a significant danger of causing personal injury to an intimate partner, or an intimate partner is alleged to have been the target of a threat or act of violence by the respondent, petitioner shall make a good-faith effort to provide notice to any and all intimate partners of the respondent. The notice must include that the petitioner intends to petition the court for a six-month firearms restraining order, and, if petitioner is a law enforcement officer, referral to relevant domestic violence or stalking advocacy or counseling resources, if appropriate. The petitioner shall attest to having provided the notice in the filed affidavit or verified pleading. If after making a good-faith effort petitioner is unable to provide notice to any or all intimate partners, the affidavit or verified pleading should describe what efforts were made.
- C. Every person who files a petition for a six-month firearms restraining order, knowing the information provided to the court at any hearing or in the affidavit or verified pleading to be false, is

1 guilty of perjury under Section 491 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma 2 Statutes.

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- D. Upon receipt of a petition for a six-month firearms restraining order, the court shall order a hearing within thirty (30) days.
 - E. In determining whether to issue a firearms restraining order under this section, the court shall consider evidence including, but not limited to, the following:
- 1. The unlawful and reckless use, display, or brandishing of a firearm by the respondent;
 - 2. The history of use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force by the respondent against another person;
 - 3. Any prior arrest of the respondent for a felony offense;
 - 4. Evidence of the abuse of controlled substances or alcohol by the respondent;
 - 5. A recent threat of violence or act of violence by the respondent directed toward himself, herself, or another;
 - 6. A violation of an emergency order of protection or order of protection issued under the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act; or
 - 7. A pattern of violent acts or violent threats including, but not limited to, threats of violence or acts of violence by the respondent directed toward himself, herself, or another.
- F. At the hearing, the petitioner shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent poses a

significant danger of personal injury to himself, herself, or another by having in his or her custody or control a firearm, or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm.

- G. If the court finds that there is clear and convincing evidence to issue a firearms restraining order, the court shall issue a firearms restraining order that shall be in effect for six (6) months subject to renewal or termination under Section 7 of this act. Furthermore, the court shall provide the respondent with information and resource options for community-based mental health treatment. If the court issues a six-month firearms restraining order, it shall, upon a finding of probable cause that the respondent possesses firearms, issue a search warrant directing a law enforcement agency to seize the firearms of the respondent. The court may, as part of that warrant, direct the law enforcement agency to search the residence of the respondent and other places where the court finds there is probable cause to believe he or she is likely to possess the firearms.
 - H. A six-month firearms restraining order shall require:
- 1. The respondent to refrain from having in his or her custody or control a firearm, or from purchasing, possessing or receiving additional firearms for the duration of the order; and
- 2. The respondent to turn over to the local law enforcement agency any firearm or handgun license issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act in his or her possession. The local law

enforcement agency shall immediately mail the handgun license to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for safekeeping. The firearm and handgun license, if unexpired, shall be returned to the respondent after the firearms restraining order is terminated or expired.

- I. 1. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection, upon expiration of the period of safekeeping, if the firearm or handgun license cannot be returned to respondent because respondent cannot be located, the respondent fails to respond to requests to retrieve the firearm, or the respondent is not lawfully eligible to possess a firearm, upon petition from the local law enforcement agency, the court may order the local law enforcement agency to destroy the firearm, use the firearm for training purposes, or for any other application as deemed appropriate by the local law enforcement agency.
- 2. A respondent may petition the court, if the petitioner is present in court or has notice of the petition, to transfer the firearm of the respondent to a person who is lawfully able to possess the firearm if the person does not reside at the same address as the respondent. Notice of the petition shall be served upon the person protected by the emergency firearms restraining order. While the order is in effect, the transferee who receives the firearm of the respondent must swear or affirm by affidavit that

he or she shall not transfer the firearm to the respondent or to anyone residing in the same residence as the respondent.

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- 3. If a person other than the respondent claims title to any firearms surrendered under this section, he or she may petition the court, if the petitioner is present in court or has notice of the petition, to have the firearm returned to him or her. If the court determines that person to be the lawful owner of the firearm, the firearm shall be returned to him or her, provided that:
 - a. the firearm is removed from the custody, control, or possession of the respondent and the lawful owner agrees to store the firearm in a manner such that the respondent does not have access to or control of the firearm, and
 - b. the firearm is not otherwise unlawfully possessed by the owner.
- 4. The person petitioning for the return of his or her firearm must swear or affirm by affidavit that he or she:
 - a. is the lawful owner of the firearm,
 - b. will not transfer the firearm to the respondent, and
 - c. will store the firearm in a manner that the respondent does not have access to or control of the firearm.
- J. If the court does not issue a firearms restraining order at the hearing, the court shall dissolve any emergency firearms restraining order then in effect.

K. When the court issues a firearms restraining order under this section, the court shall inform the respondent that he or she is entitled to one hearing during the period of the order to request a termination of the order, under Section 7 of this act, and shall provide the respondent with a form to request a hearing.

- SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.6 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. A person subject to a firearms restraining order issued under this act may submit one written request at any time during the effective period of the order for a hearing to terminate the order.
- 1. The respondent shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent does not pose a danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another in the near future by having in his or her custody or control a firearm, or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm.
- 2. If the court finds after the hearing that the respondent has met his or her burden, the court shall terminate the order.
- B. A petitioner may request a renewal of a firearms restraining order at any time within the three (3) months before the expiration of a firearms restraining order.
- 1. A court shall, after notice and a hearing, renew a firearms restraining order issued under this section if the petitioner proves, by clear and convincing evidence, that the respondent

continues to pose a danger of causing personal injury to himself,

herself, or another in the near future by having in his or her

custody or control a firearm, or by purchasing, possessing, or

receiving a firearm.

- 2. In determining whether to renew a firearms restraining order issued under this act, the court shall consider evidence of the facts identified in subsection E of Section 6 of this act and any other evidence of an increased risk for violence.
- 3. At the hearing, the petitioner shall have the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that the respondent continues to pose a danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another in the near future by having in his or her custody or control a firearm, or by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm.
- 4. The renewal of a firearms restraining order issued under this section shall be in effect for six (6) months, subject to termination by further order of the court at a hearing held under this section and further renewal by further order of the court under this section.
- SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.7 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. Upon issuance of any firearms restraining order, the clerk shall immediately, or on the next court day if an emergency firearms

restraining order is issued in accordance with Section 5 of this act:

- 1. Enter the order on the record and file it in accordance with the district court procedures; and
- 2. Provide a file-stamped copy of the order to respondent, if present, and to petitioner.
- B. The clerk shall, or the petitioner may, on the same day that a firearms restraining order is issued, file a certified copy of that order with the sheriff or other law enforcement officials charged with maintaining law enforcement records or charged with serving the order upon respondent. If the order was issued in accordance with Section 5 of this act, the clerk shall on the next court day, file a certified copy of the order with the sheriff or other law enforcement officials charged with maintaining law enforcement records.
- C. Unless respondent was present in court when the order was issued, the sheriff or other law enforcement official shall promptly serve that order upon respondent and file proof of the service, in the manner provided for service of process in civil proceedings.
- D. Any order renewing or terminating any firearms restraining order shall be promptly recorded, issued, and served as provided in this section.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.8 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. All sheriffs shall furnish to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, daily, in the form and detail the Bureau requires, copies of any recorded firearms restraining order issued by the court and transmitted to the sheriff by the court clerk under Section 8 of this act. Each firearms restraining order shall be entered in the Uniform Crime Reporting System on the same day it is issued by the court. If an emergency firearms restraining order was issued in accordance with Section 5 of this act, the order shall be entered in the Uniform Crime Reporting System as soon as possible after receipt from the clerk.
- B. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall maintain a complete and systematic record and index of all valid and recorded firearms restraining orders issued or filed under this act. The data shall be used to inform all dispatchers and law enforcement officers at the scene of a violation of the firearms restraining order of the effective dates and terms of any recorded order of protection.
- C. The data, records, and transmittals required under this section shall pertain to any valid emergency or six-month firearms restraining order, whether issued in a civil or criminal proceeding

- or authorized under the laws of another state, tribe, or United
 States territory.
- 3 SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.9 of Title 22, unless there 5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
 - A. A person who has sought a firearms restraining order or similar order issued by the court of another state, tribe, or United States territory may file a certified copy of the firearms restraining order with the court clerk in a judicial district in which the person believes that enforcement may be necessary.
 - B. The clerk shall:

- 1. Treat the foreign firearms restraining order in the same manner as a judgment of the district court for any county of this state in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act, except that the clerk shall not mail notice of the filing of the foreign order to the respondent named in the order; and
- 2. On the same day that a foreign firearms restraining order is filed, file a certified copy of that order with the sheriff or other law enforcement officials charged with maintaining law enforcement records as set forth in Section 9 of this act.
- C. Neither residence in this state nor filing of a foreign firearms restraining order shall be required for enforcement of the order by this state. Failure to file the foreign order shall not be

1 an impediment to its treatment in all respects as an Oklahoma 2 firearms restraining order.

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- D. The clerk shall not charge a fee to file a foreign firearms restraining order under this section.
- SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.10 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A respondent who knowingly violates a firearms restraining order is guilty of a misdemeanor. Prosecution for a violation of a firearms restraining order shall not bar concurrent prosecution for any other crime, including any crime that may have been committed at the time of the violation of the firearms restraining order.

SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.11 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Nothing in this act shall preclude a petitioner or law enforcement officer from removing weapons under other authority, or filing criminal charges when probable cause exists.

SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.12 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Any act of omission or commission by any law enforcement officer acting in good faith in rendering emergency assistance or otherwise enforcing this act shall not impose civil liability upon the law

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    enforcement officer or his or her supervisor or employer, unless the
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    act is a result of willful or wanton misconduct.
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        SECTION 14.
                        NEW LAW
                                    A new section of law to be codified
    in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 62.13 of Title 22, unless there
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    is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
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        If the court denies issuance of a firearms restraining order
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    against the respondent, all records of the proceeding shall be
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    immediately expunged from the court records. If the firearms
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    restraining order is granted, all records of the proceeding shall,
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    three (3) years after the expiration of the firearms restraining
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    order, be sealed.
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                                     21 O.S. 2021, Sections 1289.24b and
        SECTION 15.
                        REPEALER
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    1289.24c, are hereby repealed.
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        SECTION 16. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.
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