

MOLLY JENKINS
State Representative
District 33
Payne County
Logan County



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

VICE CHAIR:
Committee on Tourism

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations and Budget
Judiciary Subcommittee

Common Education

Elections and Ethics

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Gentner Drummond

Attorney General of Oklahoma
313 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Attorney General Drummond:

Pursuant to 74 O.S. § 18b(A)(5), I respectfully request an Attorney General Opinion concerning the proper scope of 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, particularly as it relates to the use of executive sessions by public bodies when deliberating salary matters.

Recent actions by certain public bodies have highlighted possible ambiguity regarding the statutory limits of executive sessions, and conflicting interpretations appear to exist between the text of § 307, the legislative intent of the Open Meeting Act, and Attorney General Opinion 96-40 (Edmondson).

In order to ensure statewide uniformity and lawful compliance by all public bodies, clarification is necessary.

Accordingly, I respectfully request an official Attorney General Opinion addressing the following questions:

- 1. Whether 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) permits a public body to enter executive session to discuss salary increases affecting a class of public officials or employees, as opposed to matters concerning an individual public officer or employee.**
- 2. Whether the term “employment,” within the meaning of 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), may properly be construed to include deliberations concerning compensation policy, salary schedules, or compensation frameworks applicable to multiple officeholders, or whether that term is limited to individualized personnel matters.**
- 3. Whether a public body may lawfully invoke § 307(B)(1) to deliberate compensation for public officers or employees who are not hired, supervised, evaluated, or disciplined by that public body.**
- 4. Whether Attorney General Opinion 96-40 is consistent with the narrow construction historically applied to executive session exceptions under the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, and whether that Opinion should now be reconsidered, clarified, limited, or withdrawn in whole or in part.**

The Oklahoma Open Meeting Act is intended to be interpreted strictly in favor of openness. Because the unauthorized use of executive session carries criminal penalties, it is vital that public bodies statewide possess clear and accurate guidance respecting the lawful limits of § 307.

The Honorable Gentner Drummond
Attorney General of Oklahoma
November 24, 2025
Page 2

For that reason, clarification from your office is urgently needed to ensure consistent statewide adherence to the Act, as well as the preservation of the public's right to transparency when compensation decisions are made.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I respectfully await your guidance.

Sincerely,



Molly Jenkins
Oklahoma State Representative
House District 33