Who Does What?

Trace a state law through Oklahoma's three branches.

OKH.C.5.1.C "Identify the requirements, terms of office, and duties for major elected and appointed state officials in each branch of state government."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, circle each state office, underline a requirement for that office, and number its term length and one duty so you can compare the three branches.

From Bill to Courtroom

1. Suppose Oklahoma lawmakers pass a bill about school bus safety. It goes to the governor, the elected leader of the executive branch. The governor may sign the bill into law or veto it. The governor also directs executive agencies as they carry out state laws and proposes a state budget. To serve, a governor must be at least 31 years old, be a United States citizen, and have lived in Oklahoma for the ten years before the election. Voters elect governors to four-year terms. No one may serve more than two terms as governor.

2. Before a bill reaches the governor, it must pass both chambers of the Oklahoma Legislature. Voters elect representatives to the House for two-year terms and senators to the Senate for four-year terms. A representative must be at least 21 years old; a senator must be at least 25. Both must be qualified voters in the districts they represent. Legislators introduce, debate, and vote on bills, including bills about state spending. The Senate also votes on whether to confirm certain people the governor appoints. These duties give elected lawmakers a role in making laws and checking executive appointments.

3. If a new law faces a civil court challenge, the case may eventually reach the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Its justices interpret state law and decide civil appeals. Unlike governors and legislators, justices first enter office by appointment: the governor chooses from candidates nominated by the Judicial Nominating Commission. A justice must be at least 30 years old, be a qualified Oklahoma voter, and have five years of experience as a licensed practicing attorney or a judge of a court of record. Justices serve six-year terms. At the end of a term, voters decide whether to retain each justice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify the governor's three requirements listed in the passage, the term length, and one duty involving a bill.

2. Compare the minimum ages and term lengths for Oklahoma representatives and senators.

3. What requirement applies to both representatives and senators, and what appointment-related duty belongs to the Senate?

4. How does an Oklahoma Supreme Court justice first enter office? Identify one requirement, the term length, and one duty.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A school bus safety bill is proposed, becomes law, and later faces a civil court challenge that reaches the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Write a brief account of one role each for a representative, the governor, and a justice; for each, include how the official first gets the job, one requirement, and the term length.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does What?

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.5.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, circle each state office, underline a requirement for that office, and number its term length and one duty so you can compare the three branches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify the governor's three requirements listed in the passage, the term length, and one duty involving a bill.	**At least 31 years old, a U.S. citizen, and an Oklahoma resident for the ten years before the election; a four-year term; signs or vetoes bills.**
2	Compare the minimum ages and term lengths for Oklahoma representatives and senators.	**Representatives must be at least 21 and serve two-year terms. Senators must be at least 25 and serve four-year terms.**
3	What requirement applies to both representatives and senators, and what appointment-related duty belongs to the Senate?	**Both must be qualified voters in their districts. The Senate votes on confirming certain gubernatorial appointees.**
4	How does an Oklahoma Supreme Court justice first enter office? Identify one requirement, the term length, and one duty.	**The governor appoints a justice from Judicial Nominating Commission nominees. Accept age 30, qualified Oklahoma voter, or the stated five years of legal experience; six-year term; interprets state law or decides civil appeals.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Voters elect a representative, who must be at least 21, to a two-year term. The representative can debate and vote on the school bus safety bill. Voters elect the governor, who must be a U.S. citizen, to a four-year term. After the bill passes both chambers, the governor can sign it into law. The governor appoints a Supreme Court justice from nominees chosen by the Judicial Nominating Commission. A justice must be at least 30 and serves a six-year term. If a civil challenge reaches the court, the justice helps decide the appeal.

Accept any requirement or duty explicitly supported by the passage where the prompt allows a choice. The sample describes possible actions, not a required outcome for the bill or court challenge.