

FLOOR AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB2749 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Adopted: _____

Amendment submitted by: Susan Winchester _____

Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 FLOOR SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2749

By: Winchester of the House

and

Mazzei of the Senate

7
8
9 FLOOR SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to children; creating the Adoption
11 Review Task Force; providing for membership;
12 providing for appointment of cochairs; providing for
13 vacancies; directing travel reimbursement; providing
14 for administrative support; specifying duties;
15 requiring certain reports; providing for
16 noncodification; providing an effective date; and
17 declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
20 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

21 A. There is hereby created, to continue until December 31,
22 2009, the "Adoption Review Task Force".

23 B. The Task Force shall consist of thirteen (13) members:

24 1. Four members shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

a. one member shall be a presiding judge of a court

having adoption law jurisdiction from a rural county,

- 1 b. one member shall be a presiding judge of a court
2 having adoption law jurisdiction from an urban county,
3 c. one member shall be a law professor from one of the
4 law schools in this state, and
5 d. one member shall have specialized knowledge of
6 information systems and technology;

7 2. Four members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
8 Oklahoma House of Representatives as follows:

- 9 a. one member shall be a licensed mental health
10 professional with specialized knowledge of adoption
11 issues, foster care, and social work,
12 b. one member shall be from an adoption advocacy group,
13 c. one member shall be an attorney practicing in the area
14 of adoption law who is an active member of the Family
15 Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association, and
16 d. one member shall be from the Oklahoma House of
17 Representatives;

18 3. Four members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
19 of the Senate as follows:

- 20 a. two members shall be directors of licensed child-
21 placing agencies,
22 b. one member shall be a public defender, and
23 c. one member shall be from the Senate; and
24

1 4. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or a
2 designee.

3 C. The appointed member from the Oklahoma House of
4 Representatives and the appointed member from the State Senate shall
5 serve as cochairs of the Task Force. The cochairs shall convene the
6 first meeting of the Task Force. The members of the Task Force
7 shall elect any other officers during the first meeting and upon a
8 vacancy in any office. Vacancies of members on the Task Force shall
9 be filled by the original appointing authority. The Task Force
10 shall meet as often as necessary.

11 D. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by September 1,
12 2008.

13 E. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute
14 a quorum. A majority of the members present at a meeting may act
15 for the Task Force.

16 F. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed
17 by their respective agencies for necessary travel expenses incurred
18 in the performance of duties pursuant to the provisions of the State
19 Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the Task Force
20 shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the
21 performance of duties in accordance with the provisions of Section
22 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

23 G. Administrative support for the Task Force including, but not
24 limited to, personnel necessary to ensure the proper performance of

1 the duties and responsibilities of the Task Force shall be provided
2 by the Department of Human Services to be supplemented, if
3 necessary, by the state agencies involved in the Task Force, and the
4 staff of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Senate. All
5 participating state agencies shall provide for any administrative
6 support requested by the Task Force.

7 H. The Task Force shall study and make recommendations
8 concerning the laws and practices relating to adoption. The Task
9 Force shall review and make recommendations regarding:

10 1. Allowable expenses paid by adoptive parents for the benefit
11 of the birth parents;

12 2. Documentation evidencing a detailed accounting and full
13 disclosure of all monies expended for adoptions including, but not
14 limited to:

- 15 a. birth mother expenses,
- 16 b. agency fees,
- 17 c. social services fees, and
- 18 d. attorney fees;

19 3. Procedures concerning the approval of expenses including,
20 but not limited to:

- 21 a. a mandatory hearing for uncommon expenses paid, and
- 22 b. a time limit for the approval of expenses;

23 4. The potential role of public defenders in adoption
24 proceedings;

1 5. Procedures to ensure accuracy in the assessment of whether a
2 child has Native American blood;

3 6. Information that should be required to be given to all
4 parties involved in the adoption;

5 7. The standardization of the reporting of the number of
6 adoptions finalized in Oklahoma;

7 8. Jurisdictional issues with respect to adoptions;

8 9. The use of technology to aid in the facilitation of
9 adoptions;

10 10. The appointment of an advocate for the birth mother;

11 11. Confidentiality considerations; and

12 12. Industry advertising practices.

13 I. The Task Force shall publish an initial report of findings
14 and recommendations by December 31, 2008, and a final report by
15 December 31, 2009, including recommendations for any resulting
16 legislation.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

18 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
19 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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23 51-2-10334 SAB 02/26/08

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