

**FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**  
2nd Session of the 51<sup>st</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 1421</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Proposed Committee Substitute</b>
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<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/2/08</b>
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**Impact:** **No Fiscal Impact**

Reviewed: Mark Tygret  
House Fiscal Director

**Summary**

Amends 10 O.S. §§ 7004-1.8, 7206, 7209, and 7221 to 1) return to statute the exception to fingerprinting prospective foster and adoptive applicants; 2) allow visitation of foster children in locations other than the foster home once per quarter; 3) correct the performance standard for the performance-based compensation program; 4) to comply with the Social Security Act the DHS shall limit the number of children under the responsibility of the Department, who remain in substitute care for a period over twenty-four (24) months, to no more than thirty percent (30%) of the children in care during any fiscal year; and 5) amends the law with regard to unemancipated persons in DHS custody seeking driver's licenses.

**Analysis**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this bill.

Senate Bill 553 deleted the exception to fingerprinting prospective foster and adoptive parents based on direction from Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration on Children and Families (ACF) when the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006 was enacted. ACF updated the direction and exceptions are now permissible requiring a return to state statute the language allowing an exception to fingerprinting.

Federal regulations required that only 51% of visits with foster children be conducted in foster homes. Currently, Oklahoma statutes require monthly visits in the foster home. OKDHS agency staff need more flexibility in the location of visits with children to comply with the federal requirement of monthly face-to-face contact with 90% of the children in foster care. This amendment will allow OKDHS staff to document visits with children in locations other than the foster home once per quarter. This procedural change will not reduce the number of contacts with children and will increase compliance to meet the federal requirement.

The current statute establishing the performance-based compensation for child welfare specialists refers to "above-average employee evaluations as defined by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)." The correct standard defined by OPM is "exceeds standards."

**Long Term Considerations**

None