

3 Senate Bill No. 697
4 As Amended

5 SENATE BILL NO. 697 - By: Gumm of the Senate and Dorman of the
6 House.

7 [state government - specifying membership of the Children's
8 Cabinet - codification - effective date -
9 emergency]

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

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 10.4a of Title 74, unless there
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. There is hereby created the Children's Cabinet to develop,
15 recommend and implement coordinated state policies to improve the
16 health and welfare of children and families.

17 B. The Children's Cabinet shall be composed of fifteen (15)
18 members as follows:

19 1. The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as chair of the
20 Children's Cabinet;

21 2. The Director of the Department of Human Services;

22 3. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs;

23 4. The State Commissioner of Health;

24 5. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
25 Services;

- 1 6. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction;
- 2 7. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and
3 Youth;
- 4 8. The Commissioner of Labor;
- 5 9. The State Treasurer;
- 6 10. The Commissioner of Public Safety;
- 7 11. The Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission;
- 8 12. The Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation
9 Services;
- 10 13. The Commissioner of Insurance;
- 11 14. The Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority;
- 12 and
- 13 15. The executive director of a child advocacy organization in
14 the state, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, who shall
15 serve as vice-chair of the Children's Cabinet.
- 16 C. The Children's Cabinet shall:
- 17 1. Promote a stable, safe, and healthy environment for children
18 and families;
- 19 2. Provide a regular forum for state agencies to meet and
20 develop coordinated policy recommendations; and
- 21 3. Develop, no later than July 1, 2010, a strategic plan that
22 shall provide a long-term children's policy for the state. The plan
23 shall:

- 1 a. identify the major issues facing children and youth
2 under the age of twenty-one (21) in the state,
3 b. outline potential long-term strategies and goals that
4 the state can implement to address the issues and
5 improve the overall quality of life for Oklahoma
6 children,
7 c. provide recommendations for policies that will
8 maximize the success and opportunities for Oklahoma
9 children to become self-sufficient and productive
10 adults. Issue areas may include academics, health and
11 well-being, safety, job training and job access,
12 d. provide recommendations for the design of a
13 coordinated system to maximize outcomes among children
14 and youth under age twenty-one (21), particularly
15 those living in disadvantaged situations,
16 e. establish priorities and strategies for the
17 coordinated delivery of state interagency services for
18 children and families,
19 f. provide recommendations on streamlining the delivery
20 of services to children, eliminating duplication of
21 costs and services in existing agencies,

1 g. provide measurable outcomes for each department,
2 agency and program in the state that are consistent
3 with the plan, and

4 h. be coordinated with any other approved state plans
5 relating to services for children and families.

6 D. The Children's Cabinet may consult with the Youth Advisory
7 Alliance. The Youth Advisory Alliance shall be composed of youth
8 ages fourteen (14) to twenty-one (21). Each member of the Oklahoma
9 Legislature may select one youth from their district to serve on the
10 Youth Advisory Alliance. Each Youth Advisory Alliance member shall
11 serve for a two (2) year term. The Youth Advisory Alliance shall
12 meet at least twice each year and shall:

13 1. Identify and examine issues of importance to youth;

14 2. Identify recommendations on potential solutions to issues
15 facing youth; and

16 3. Provide a report to the Children's Cabinet on the issues and
17 recommendations determined to be of importance to the Youth Advisory
18 Alliance.

19 E. The Children's Cabinet shall meet at least four (4) times
20 per year.

21 F. Staff support for the Children's Cabinet shall be provided
22 by the Office of Planning and Coordination in the Oklahoma
23 Commission on Children and Youth.

1 G. The Children's Cabinet is authorized to solicit, receive and
2 pool funds from the federal government, any political subdivision of
3 the state or any individual, foundation or corporation, and may
4 expend those funds for purposes that are consistent with this
5 section.

6 H. The Children's Cabinet may make use of any resources, both
7 public and private, that will provide information and analysis that
8 assists in executing its statutory mission.

9 I. Each member of the Children's Cabinet shall name an employee
10 to serve as a liaison to ensure coordination and communication among
11 agencies and to address cross-jurisdictional issues in an efficient,
12 effective and expeditious manner.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

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

18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 2-16-09 - DO PASS, As
19 Amended and Coauthored.