

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 2032

By: Steele

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2001,
7 Section 601.6, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter
8 293, O.S.L. 2008 (10 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 601.6),
9 which relates to the Office of Juvenile System
10 Oversight; eliminating duplication in investigation
11 and monitoring duties among certain agencies; and
12 providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 601.6, as
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 2008 (10 O.S. Supp.
16 2008, Section 601.6), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 601.6 A. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall
18 have the responsibility of investigating and reporting misfeasance
19 and malfeasance within the children and youth service system,
20 inquiring into areas of concern, investigating complaints filed with
21 the Office of Juvenile System Oversight, and monitoring the agencies
22 composing the children and youth service system not licensed by the
23 Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Residential and Agency
24 Licensing Unit to ascertain compliance with established
responsibilities.

1 ~~It shall be the duty of the Office of Juvenile System Oversight~~
2 ~~to conduct regular, periodic, but not less than semiannual,~~
3 ~~unannounced inspections of state-operated children's institutions~~
4 ~~and facilities and to review the reports of the inspections of the~~
5 ~~State Fire Marshal and the Department of Health and any agencies~~
6 ~~which accredit such institutions and facilities.~~

7 B. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall:

8 1. Have the authority to examine and copy all records and
9 budgets pertaining to the children and youth service system and
10 shall have access to all facilities within the children and youth
11 service system not licensed by the Oklahoma Department of Human
12 Services, Residential and Agency Licensing Unit for the purpose of
13 conducting site visits and speaking with the residents of such
14 facilities;

15 2. Have the authority to subpoena witnesses and hold public
16 hearings;

17 3. Establish, in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Act,
18 Sections 1801 through 1813 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a
19 voluntary program for foster parents to mediate complaints
20 concerning the rights of foster parents, as provided for in Section
21 7206.1 of this title, that relate to certain actions, inactions or
22 decisions of the Department of Human Services, the Department of
23 Juvenile Justice, or child-placing agencies that may adversely
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1 affect the safety and well-being of children in the custody of the
2 state;

3 4. Issue reports to the Governor, Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Chief Justice
5 of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, any appropriate
6 prosecutorial agency, the director of the agency under
7 consideration; and ~~such~~ other persons as necessary and appropriate;
8 and

9 5. Provide recommendations to the Oklahoma Commission on
10 Children and Youth on or before May 1 of each year.

11 C. The Office of Juvenile System Oversight shall not release
12 information that would identify a person who makes a complaint to
13 ~~such~~ the Office, unless a court of competent jurisdiction orders
14 release of the information for good cause shown.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

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