

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1886

By: Brecheen

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to termination of parental rights;  
8 stating legislative findings; repealing 10A O.S.  
9 2011, Section 1-4-502, which relates to jury trial;  
10 providing for noncodification; and providing an  
11 effective date.

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

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

15 The Legislature finds that this state is one of only six states  
16 that allow jury trials for cases involving termination of parental  
17 rights. In this state, parents may choose between a jury trial and  
18 a bench trial, a choice that is rare nationwide. Parental rights  
19 cannot be terminated until a child has been out of the home fifteen  
20 of the last twenty-two months, after which many kids have to wait  
21 even longer and suffer through a lengthy jury trial. Even with  
22 bench trials, parents involved in termination cases have all the  
23 benefits and protections of due process without the option of a jury  
24 trial. The Legislature finds that removing the option of jury

1 trials in parental termination cases would get children out of the  
2 foster care system and into stable, happy environments in a more  
3 expeditious manner.

4 SECTION 2. REPEALER 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-4-502, is  
5 hereby repealed.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2012.

7  
8 53-2-2237 TEK 1/19/2012 9:04:02 PM

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24