

1 Shelter, and the children's shelter located in Tulsa, known and
2 designated as the Laura Dester Children's Shelter. The Department
3 shall implement a plan to transition the use of shelters from a
4 placement for children taken into custody into an alternative
5 purpose to be determined by the Department. Kinship care homes and
6 emergency foster care homes shall be utilized for the care of
7 children instead of a shelter whenever possible. The Department
8 shall monitor and report to the Legislature and Governor on a
9 monthly basis the daily average shelter population and the number of
10 kinship care homes utilized and the total number of emergency foster
11 care homes available by county.

12 2. Subject to the availability of suitable placements, no child
13 in the custody of the Department of Human Services:

14 a. six (6) years of age or younger shall be placed in
15 shelter care after June 30, 2013, or

16 b. thirteen (13) years of age or younger shall be placed
17 in shelter care after June 30, 2014.

18 3. The Department is authorized to manage and operate, to the
19 extent of funds available, and may contract with designated youth
20 services agencies or child-placing agencies for the management and
21 operation of such group homes as may be necessary to provide a
22 diversity of placement alternatives for children adjudicated
23 deprived and placed in the custody of the Department. The
24 Department shall, prior to awarding a contract to a facility for the

1 purposes of this paragraph, ensure that such facility provides
2 continuing education to its employees in the area of cultural
3 competency. Such continuing education shall include, at a minimum,
4 instruction on the problems of race and gender-based disparities
5 faced by youths in group homes.

6 B. The Commission for Human Services shall establish and
7 maintain methods of administration, including those necessary to
8 establish and maintain a merit system of personnel administration,
9 and shall prescribe rules necessary for the efficient and effective
10 operation of the children's facilities operated by the Department.

11 C. 1. The Director of the Department shall employ and fix the
12 duties and compensation of a director or supervisor, and other
13 personnel necessary, for each of the children's facilities operated
14 by the Department.

15 2. The Department shall promulgate, and in its hiring and
16 employment practices, the Department shall adhere to, written
17 minimum qualifications by position for personnel working with or
18 around children in such facilities. Minimum qualifications shall be
19 designed to assure that:

20 a. personnel possess sufficient education, training,
21 experience, and background to provide adequate and
22 safe professional care and services to children, and
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1 b. children will not be exposed to abuse, deprivation,
2 criminal conduct, or other unwholesome conditions
3 attributable to employee incompetence or misconduct.

4 D. 1. It shall be the duty of the State Fire Marshal and the
5 State Commissioner of Health to cause annual unannounced inspections
6 of children's facilities operated by the Department, utilizing
7 adequately trained and qualified inspection personnel, to determine
8 and evaluate conditions in their respective areas of agency
9 jurisdiction.

10 2. Inspections shall include, but not be limited to, compliance
11 with:

12 a. minimum fire, life, and health safety standards, and

13 b. minimum standards governing general sanitation of the
14 institution.

15 3. Reports of inspections shall be made in writing, itemizing
16 and identifying any deficiencies, and recommending corrective
17 measures, and shall be filed with the Department, the Office of
18 Juvenile System Oversight, and the Commission on Children and Youth.

19 4. The Department shall file copies of the reports of the
20 inspections and recommendations of the accrediting agencies with the
21 Office of Juvenile System Oversight.

22 E. 1. The Department may:
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- 1 a. give assistance to local school districts in providing
2 an education to children in facilities operated by the
3 Department,
4 b. supplement the education, and
5 c. provide facilities for such purposes.

6 2. It shall be the duty of the Department to assure that
7 children in the facilities receive educational services which will
8 stress basic literacy skills including, but not limited to,
9 curricula requirements stressing reading, writing, mathematics,
10 science, and vocational-technical education.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2014.

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13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
14 04/03/2014 - DO PASS.
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