HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 763 By: Bass of the Senate

and

McDaniel (Jeannie) of the House

An Act relating to the Department of Human Services; amending 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-9-107, which relates to the Independent Living Act; requiring Department to provide foster youth with certain information; and providing an effective date

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2011, Section 1-9-107, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-9-107. A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Independent Living Act".

B. The purpose of the Independent Living Act shall be:

1. To ensure that eligible individuals, who have been or are in the foster care program of the Department of Human Services or a federally recognized Indian tribe with whom the Department has a contract, due to abuse or neglect, receive the protection and

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BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

support necessary to allow those individuals to become self-reliant and productive citizens through the provision of requisite services that include, but are not limited to, transitional planning, housing, medical coverage, and education, provided that eligibility for tuition waivers shall be as set forth in Section 3230 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

2. To break the cycle of abuse and neglect that obligates the state to assume custody of children.

C. An individual is eligible to receive independent living services from the age of sixteen (16) until the age of eighteen (18), during the time the individual is in the custody of the Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe and in an out-of-home placement.

D. Independent living services may continue to the age of twenty-one (21), provided the individual is in the custody of the Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe due to abuse or neglect and is in an out-of-home placement at the time of the individual's eighteenth birthday.

E. Individuals who are sixteen (16) years of age or older, who have been released from the custody of the Department or federally recognized Indian tribe due to the entry of an adoption decree or guardianship order are eligible to receive independent living services until the age of twenty-one (21).

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F. Individuals who are eligible for services pursuant to the Independent Living Act and who are between eighteen (18) and twenty-one (21) years of age shall be eligible for Medicaid coverage, provided such individuals were also in the custody of the Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe on the date they reached eighteen (18) years of age and meet Medicaid financial eligibility guidelines.

G. The Department, in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, shall provide parents and legal guardians of foster youth with information on the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP) including, but not limited to, eligibility, application guidelines, academic requirements, and any other information required by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act for participation in the Program.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY SERVICES, dated 03/17/2015 - DO PASS.

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