

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2332

By: Branham

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to children; enacting the Model Successful Future Alumni Act of 2019; directing the Department of Human Services to create certain pilot program; providing for compensation of program participants; directing Department to create administrative position; providing for compensation of position; creating the Successful Future Alumni Revolving Fund; providing for deposits and expenditures of fund; providing for coordination with the Commissioner of Labor; requiring submission of certain annual report; providing for promulgation of rules; defining terms; permitting youth to receive extended foster care services; setting age limitation; authorizing Department of Human Services to provide extended services; listing eligibility requirements; stating voluntary nature of services; requiring Department to notify youth if services are terminated for failure to meet eligibility; directing Department to secure federal funding for services; delegating rulemaking authority to Department to implement provisions; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-8-113 of Title 10A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Model
2 Successful Future Alumni Act of 2019".

3 B. Pursuant to the Model Successful Future Alumni Act of 2019,
4 the Department of Human Services shall create a pilot program to
5 improve socioeconomic outcomes for children in the custody of the
6 Department. The pilot program shall:

7 1. Provide cost-effective, in-house employment opportunities to
8 children in Department custody or those who were in custody;

9 2. Recruit and train program participants to be effective
10 Department advocates for social services, while providing program
11 participants with self-motivation to be successful and independent
12 through employment opportunities in the Department; and

13 3. Increase employment rates, decrease the likelihood of
14 homelessness, and assist children in foster care to effectively
15 advocate for themselves and others.

16 C. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall
17 provide compensation to program participants currently or formerly
18 in foster care who are employed by the Department.

19 D. The Department shall create at least one new administrative
20 position to implement the purposes of this section, which shall not
21 be subject to the current Department pay scale, and the compensation
22 provided shall be no less than the federal minimum wage.

23 E. There is hereby created in the State Treasury for the
24 Department of Human Services a revolving fund known as the

1 "Successful Future Alumni Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
2 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
3 consist of monies collected through tax credits and deductions not
4 to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) and One Hundred
5 Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) respectively, and any other monies.
6 The combined total of tax credits and deductions for the revolving
7 fund shall not exceed Six Hundred Ninety-seven Thousand Eight
8 Hundred Twelve Dollars and fifty cents (\$697,812.50) per year. The
9 fund shall be used by the Department to provide training, support,
10 compensation, supplies, clothing, accommodations or modifications,
11 or any other necessities for the purposes of this section.
12 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the
13 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
14 Department of Human Services for approval and payment.

15 F. The Department of Human Services shall coordinate with the
16 Commissioner of Labor to provide opportunities for gainful
17 employment of program participants, giving preference to program
18 participants with disabilities.

19 G. The Department shall submit an annual report of the pilot
20 program outcomes and achievements to the Children, Youth and Family
21 Services Committee of the House of Representatives by December 31 of
22 each year.

23 H. The Department shall promulgate rules to implement the
24 provisions of this section.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-8-114 of Title 10A, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. As used in this section:

5 1. "Foster care services" means services or programs that may
6 include but are not limited to housing, transitional or independent
7 living, crisis intervention, case supervision, job placement,
8 educational or vocational placement, training, counseling, early
9 intervention and diversionary substance abuse treatment, sexual
10 abuse treatment and other related services and programs; and

11 2. "Youth" means a person who is at least eighteen (18) years
12 of age but less than twenty-one (21) years of age.

13 B. A youth who:

14 1. Exited foster care after reaching eighteen (18) years of
15 age; or

16 2. Is in foster care when reaching eighteen (18) years of age,
17 may reenter or remain in foster care and receive extended foster
18 care services until twenty-one (21) years of age.

19 C. The Department of Human Services may provide extended foster
20 care services if the youth meets one of the following conditions for
21 eligibility:

22 1. The youth is completing secondary education or a program
23 leading to an equivalent credential;

1 2. The youth is enrolled in an institution that provides
2 postsecondary or vocational education;

3 3. The youth is participating in a program or activity designed
4 to promote employment or remove barriers to employment;

5 4. The youth is employed for at least eighty (80) hours per
6 month; or

7 5. The youth is incapable of doing any part of the activities
8 described in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection due to a
9 medical condition. An assertion of incapacity pursuant to this
10 paragraph shall be supported by regularly updated information in the
11 case plan of the youth.

12 D. Extended foster care services are voluntary and a youth may
13 choose to stop receiving the services at any time. If the
14 Department determines that the youth no longer meets the eligibility
15 requirements provided in subsection C of this section for extended
16 foster care services, the Department shall provide written or
17 electronic notice to the youth regarding termination of the extended
18 foster care services.

19 E. The Department shall:

20 1. Secure funding from and implement the provisions of this
21 section in accordance with the approved Title IV-E State Plan; and

22 2. Promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions
23 of this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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