

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 1955

By: Lepak

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-105f, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2018 (63 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 1-105f), which relates to the Office of Accountability Systems; modifying reporting requirements of the Office; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-105f, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 29, O.S.L. 2018 (63 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 1-105f), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-105f. A. The Office of Accountability Systems of the State Department of Health (OAS) shall have the authority to:

1. Coordinate audits and investigations and make reports to the ~~State Board of Health and State Commissioner of Health~~ within the State Department of Health ~~and State Health Officer~~ relating to the administration of programs and operations of the State Department of Health;

1 2. Except as otherwise prohibited by current law, access all
2 records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers,
3 recommendations, or other material which relate to programs and
4 operations with respect to which the Director of the Office of
5 Accountability Systems has responsibilities;

6 3. Request assistance from other state, federal and local
7 government agencies;

8 4. Issue administrative subpoenas for the production of all
9 information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers,
10 and other data and documentary evidence;

11 5. Administer to or take from any current or former employee of
12 the State Department of Health an oath, affirmation, or affidavit;

13 6. Receive and investigate complaints or information from an
14 employee of the Department, service recipient or member of the
15 public concerning the possible existence of an activity within the
16 State Department of Health constituting a violation of law, rules or
17 regulations, mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority
18 or a substantial and specific danger to the public health and
19 safety;

20 7. Cause to be issued on behalf of OAS credentials, including
21 an identification card with the State Seal; and

22 8. Keep confidential all actions and records relating to OAS
23 complaints.
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1 B. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Director and
2 staff of the Office of Accountability Systems to:

3 1. Keep the ~~State Board of Health and the~~ State Commissioner of
4 Health fully informed of matters relating to fraud, abuses,
5 deficiencies and other serious problems of which the Director is
6 aware relating to the administration of programs and operations
7 within the State Department of Health. Further, the Director shall
8 recommend corrective action concerning such matters and report to
9 the ~~State Board of Health and the~~ State Commissioner of Health on
10 the progress of the corrective matters, except when such matters
11 relate to the State Commissioner of Health or the performance of his
12 or her duties in such capacity. ~~Matters~~ Such matters directly
13 involving the Commissioner ~~may~~ shall be reported by the Director to
14 the ~~Board~~ Governor of the State of Oklahoma without providing notice
15 to the Commissioner;

16 2. Report to and be under the direct supervision of the State
17 ~~Board~~ Commissioner of Health and shall not be subject to supervision
18 or report to any other State Department of Health employee. Unless
19 otherwise instructed by the State ~~Board~~ Commissioner of Health,
20 staff of the Office of Accountability Systems and independent
21 contractors performing internal investigative services for the
22 Office of Accountability Systems shall be directly supervised by the
23 Director of the Office of Accountability Systems and not subject to
24 the supervision of or required to report to any other State

1 Department of Health employee. Neither the State Commissioner of
2 Health nor any other employee of the State Department of Health
3 shall prevent, prohibit, or obstruct the Director from initiating,
4 implementing or completing any investigation or from issuing any
5 subpoena during the course of an investigation or audit regarding
6 the State Department of Health; and

7 3. Report expeditiously to the appropriate law enforcement
8 entity whenever the Director has reasonable grounds to believe that
9 there has been a felonious violation of state or federal criminal
10 law.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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