

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 HOUSE BILL 2790

By: Walke

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Department of Human Services;
8 modifying membership of certain boards, commissions
9 or other entities; listing requirements for
10 additional members; providing for preference of
11 member qualifications; requiring annual report;
12 directing promulgation of rules; providing for
13 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-9-125 of Title 10A, unless
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. Every board, commission or other entity tasked with
18 overseeing Titles IV-E or IV-B Child Welfare Services of the
19 Department of Human Services for a purpose that includes, but is not
20 limited to, federal compliance, planning, funding, implementation or
21 quality evaluation or is deemed by the Office of the Governor to be
22 a necessary and relevant entity for the purpose of this section
23 shall include at least one person who has been in foster care in
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1 accordance with subsection B of this section serving on its board,
2 commission or other entity.

3 B. The member shall:

4 1. Have been in foster care for at least six (6) months at or
5 after fourteen (14) years of age; and

6 2. At the time of serving on the board, commission or other
7 entity, be no younger than sixteen (16) years of age and no older
8 than thirty (30) years of age.

9 C. Preference for membership selection shall be given to:

10 1. Persons who are members of the Oklahoma chapter of a
11 national group comprised of persons who were once in foster care; or

12 2. Persons who have experienced one of the following:

13 a. aged out of foster care or turned eighteen (18) while
14 still in foster care,

15 b. resided in a residential facility such as a group
16 home, institution or residential child care facility
17 for more than seven (7) nonconsecutive days,

18 c. accommodations or modifications in their educational
19 experience,

20 d. self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
21 gender nonbinary or gender nonconforming,

22 e. applicability of the Indian Child Welfare Act in their
23 case,

- f. membership in communities that are overrepresented in the jurisdiction's foster care program,
- g. juvenile detention or probation, or
- h. received independent living, prevention or reunification services through the Department or a contracted provider.

D. Every board, commission or other entity tasked with overseeing Titles IV-E or IV-B Child Welfare Services of the Department of Human Services for a purpose that includes, but is not limited to, federal compliance, planning, funding, implementation or quality evaluation or is deemed by the Office of the Governor to be a necessary and relevant entity for the purpose of this act shall include at least one person who was a parent of a formerly deprived child in accordance with subsection E of this section serving on its board, commission or other entity.

E. The member shall:

1. Have been a birth parent who had a child who at some point resided in foster care and was successfully reunified through traditional reunification or guardianship as determined by the Department; and

2. At the time of serving on the board, commission or other entity, have no substantiated child welfare referrals exceeding a period of time deemed appropriate by the Department.

1 F. Preference for membership selection shall be given to
2 parents with:

- 3 1. History of substance abuse;
- 4 2. Multiple child welfare referrals prior to the finding of
5 deprivation;
- 6 3. Parental rights that have been terminated;
- 7 4. Parental rights that have been restored;
- 8 5. History of mental health diagnosis;
- 9 6. History of incarceration;
- 10 7. Former foster care experience; or
- 11 8. Diagnosed disability.

12 G. The Department shall provide an annual report to the
13 Oklahoma Legislature which indicates that the Department is in
14 compliance with the provisions and intent to this section. The
15 report shall include, but not be limited to:

- 16 1. A plan for identifying boards, commissions or other entities
17 tasked with overseeing Titles IV-E- or IV-B-funded Child Welfare
18 Services;
- 19 2. A plan for outreach to foster youth and parents of formerly
20 deprived children for participation on boards, commissions or other
21 entities tasked with overseeing Titles IV-E- or IV-B-funded Child
22 Welfare Services;
- 23 3. The criteria by which foster youth and parents of formerly
24 deprived foster children are selected;

1 4. Training provided to former foster youth and parents of
2 formerly deprived children to ensure maximum feasible participation
3 on equal footing with other members of the boards, commissions or
4 other entities.

5 H. The Department shall promulgate rules to implement the
6 provisions of this section.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

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