05/11/2021 03:10:17 PM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: Mr. Speaker:

The Conference Committee, to which was referred

HB1797

Miller of the House and Garvin of the Senate By:

Title: Child care facilities; requiring notification when there is a substantiated finding of heinous and shocking abuse; effective date.

Together with Engrossed Senate Amendments thereto, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and herewith return the same with the following recommendations:

- 1. That the Senate recede from its amendment: and
- 2. That the attached Conference Committee Substitute be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

HB1797 CCR (A) **HOUSE CONFEREES**

Bush, CarolCaw MBushLawson, MarkMarkh. lawsonMunson, CyndiRandleman, RandyRandr FrandrinanTalley, JohnJohn Jalley

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HB1797 CCR A

SENATE CONFER	REES
Garvin	AVWN
McCortney	AMET
Simpson	
Haste	
Hicks	Garn Hallo
Dossett (J.A.)	Jo Unna Dossett

House Action	Date	Senate Action	Date	
House Action	Date	Senate Action	Da	ate

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1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)
3	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4	FOR ENGROSSED
5	HOUSE BILL NO. 1797 By: Miller and Lawson of the House
6	and
7	Garvin of the Senate
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10	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
11	An Act relating to child care facilities; amending 10
12	O.S. 2011, Section 404.1, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 109, O.S.L. 2017 (10 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 404.1), which welches to emimipal biotecus
13	Section 404.1), which relates to criminal history searches; prohibiting employment of perpetrator with
14	substantiated finding of heinous and shocking abuse; amending 10 O.S. 2011, Section 406, as last amended
15	by Section 1, Chapter 368, O.S.L. 2019 (10 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 406), which relates to investigations
16	of child care facilities; requiring notification when there is a substantiated finding of heinous and
17	shocking abuse; prescribing method and timing for notification; and providing an effective date.
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20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
21	SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2011, Section 404.1, as
22	last amended by Section 1, Chapter 109, O.S.L. 2017 (10 O.S. Supp.
23	2020, Section 404.1), is amended to read as follows:
24	Section 404.1 A. On and after November 1, 2013:

1	1. Prior	to the issuance of a permit or license, owners and
2	responsible e	ntities making a request to establish or operate a
3	child care fa	cility shall have:
4	a.	an Oklahoma State Courts Network search conducted by
5		the Department,
6	b.	a Restricted Registry search conducted by the
7		facility,
8	с.	a national criminal history records search conducted
9		pursuant to paragraph 10 of this subsection,
10	d.	a criminal history records and sex offender registry
11		search conducted by an authorized source, when the
12		individual has lived outside this state within the
13		last five (5) years,
14	e.	a search of the Department of Corrections' files
15		maintained pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration
16		Act and conducted by the Department of Human Services,
17	f.	a search of any available child abuse and neglect
18		registry within a state the individual has resided in
19		within the last five (5) years,
20	g.	search of the nontechnical services worker abuse
21		registry maintained by the State Department of Health
22		pursuant to Section 1-1950.7 of Title 63 of the
23		Oklahoma Statutes, and
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h. a search of the community services worker registry
 maintained by the Department of Human Services
 pursuant to Section 1025.3 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma
 Statutes;

2. Prior to the employment of an individual:

- a. an Oklahoma State Courts Network search, conducted by
 the Department, shall be requested and received by the
 facility; provided however, if twenty-four (24) hours
 has passed from the time the request to the Department
 was made, the facility may initiate employment,
 notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph,
- b. a Restricted Registry search shall be conducted by the
 facility with notification of the search submitted to
 the Department,
- c. a national criminal history records search pursuant to
 paragraph 10 of this subsection shall be submitted,
- 17d. a criminal history records and sex offender registry18search conducted by an authorized source, when the19individual has lived outside this state within the20last five (5) years, shall be submitted to the21Department,
 - e. a search of the Department of Corrections' files maintained pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration

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1	Act shall be conducted by the Department and received
2	by the facility,
3	f. a search of any available child abuse and neglect
4	registry within a state the individual has resided in
5	within the last five (5) years,
6	g. search of the nontechnical services worker abuse
7	registry maintained by the State Department of Health
8	pursuant to Section 1-1950.7 of Title 63 of the
9	Oklahoma Statutes, and
10	h. a search of the community services worker registry
11	maintained by the Department of Human Services
12	pursuant to Section 1025.3 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma
13	Statutes;
14	3. Prior to allowing unsupervised access to children by
15	employees or individuals, including contract employees and
16	volunteers and excluding the exceptions in paragraph 8 of this
17	subsection:
18	a. Oklahoma State Courts Network search results,
19	conducted by the Department, shall be received by the
20	facility,
21	b. a Child Care Restricted Registry search shall be
22	conducted by the facility with notification of the
23	search submitted to the Department,
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- c. national criminal history records search results
 pursuant to paragraph 10 of this subsection shall be
 received by the facility,
- d. a criminal history records and sex offender registry
 search conducted by an authorized source, when the
 individual has lived outside this state within the
 last five (5) years shall be submitted to the
 Department,
- 9 e. a search of the Department of Corrections' files
 10 maintained pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration
 11 Act shall be conducted by the Department and received
 12 by the facility,
- f. a search of any available child abuse and neglect
 registry within a state the individual has resided in
 within the last five (5) years,
- 16 g. search of the nontechnical services worker abuse 17 registry maintained by the State Department of Health 18 pursuant to Section 1-1950.7 of Title 63 of the 19 Oklahoma Statutes, and
- h. a search of the community services worker registry
 maintained by the Department of Human Services
 pursuant to Section 1025.3 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma
 Statutes;
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1	4. Prior	to the issuance of a permit or license and prior to
2	the residence	of adults who subsequently move into a facility,
3	adults living	in the facility excluding the exception in paragraph 7
4	of this subsec	ction shall have:
5	a.	an Oklahoma State Courts Network search conducted by
6		the Department and the facility shall be in receipt of
7		the search results,
8	b.	a Restricted Registry search conducted by the facility
9		with notification of the search submitted to the
10		Department,
11	с.	a national criminal history records search conducted
12		pursuant to paragraph 10 of this subsection,
13	d.	a criminal history records and sex offender registry
14		search conducted by an authorized source, when the
15		individual has lived outside this state within the
16		last five (5) years,
17	e.	a search of the Department of Corrections' files
18		maintained pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration
19		Act conducted by the Department and received by the
20		facility,
21	f.	a search of any available child abuse and neglect
22		registry within a state the individual has resided in
23		within the last five (5) years,
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1	g. search of the nontechnical services worker abuse
2	registry maintained by the State Department of Health
3	pursuant to Section 1-1950.7 of Title 63 of the
4	Oklahoma Statutes, and
5	h. a search of the community services worker registry
6	maintained by the Department of Human Services
7	pursuant to Section 1025.3 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma
8	Statutes;
9	5. Children who reside in the facility and turn eighteen (18)
10	years of age excluding the exception in paragraph 7 of this
11	subsection shall have:
12	a. an Oklahoma State Courts Network search conducted by
13	the Department,
14	b. a Restricted Registry search conducted by the facility
15	with notification of the search submitted to the
16	Department,
17	c. a national criminal history records search conducted
18	pursuant to paragraph 10 of this subsection, and
19	d. a search of the Department of Corrections' files
20	pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration Act
21	conducted by the Department and received by the
22	facility;
23	6. Prior to review of or access to fingerprint results, owners,
24	responsible entities, directors, and other individuals who have

1 review of or access to fingerprint results shall have a national 2 criminal history records search pursuant to paragraph 10 of this 3 subsection;

7. Provisions specified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this
subsection shall not apply to residents who are receiving services
from a residential child care facility;

7 8. A national criminal history records search pursuant to paragraph 10 of this subsection shall not be required for volunteers 8 9 who transport children on an irregular basis when a release is 10 signed by the parent or legal guardian noting their understanding 11 that the volunteer does not have a completed national criminal 12 history records search. The provisions in paragraph 3 of this 13 subsection shall not be required for specialized service 14 professionals who are not employed by the program and have 15 unsupervised access to a child when a release is signed by the 16 parent or legal guardian noting his or her understanding of this 17 exception. These exceptions shall not preclude the Department from 18 requesting a national fingerprint or an Oklahoma State Bureau of 19 Investigation name-based criminal history records search or 20 investigating criminal, abusive, or harmful behavior of such 21 individuals, if warranted;

9. A national criminal history records search pursuant to
paragraph 10 of this subsection shall be required on or before
November 1, 2016, for existing owners, responsible entities,

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1 employees, individuals with unsupervised access to children, and 2 adults living in the facility, as of November 1, 2013, unless 3 paragraph 6 of this subsection applies;

4 10. The Department shall require a national criminal history5 records search based upon submission of fingerprints that shall:

a. be conducted by the Oklahoma State Bureau of
Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation
pursuant to Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
Statutes and the federal National Child Protection Act
and the federal Volunteers for Children Act with the
Department as the authorized agency,

- b. be submitted and have results received between the
 Department and the Oklahoma State Bureau of
 Investigation through secure electronic transmissions,
- c. include Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation rap
 back, requiring the Oklahoma State Bureau of
 Investigation to immediately notify the Department
 upon receipt of subsequent criminal history activity,
 and

d. be paid by the individual or the facility;
11. The Director of the Department, or designee, shall
promulgate rules that may authorize an exception to the
fingerprinting requirements for individuals who have a severe

1 physical condition which precludes such individuals from being 2 fingerprinted;

3 12. The Director of the Department, or designee, shall
4 promulgate rules that ensure individuals obtain a criminal history
5 records search, not to include the re-submission of fingerprints,
6 not less than once during each five (5) year period;

7 13. Any individual who refuses to consent to the criminal 8 background check or knowingly makes a materially-false statement in 9 connection with such criminal background check shall be ineligible 10 for ownership of, employment of or residence in a child care 11 facility; and

12 14. The Office of Juvenile Affairs shall require national 13 criminal history records searches, as defined by Section 150.9 of 14 Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, which shall be provided by the 15 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining 16 the national criminal history records search, including Rap Back 17 notification of and through direct request by the Office of Juvenile 18 Affairs on behalf of any:

a. operator or responsible entity making a request to
establish or operate a secure detention center,
municipal juvenile facility, community intervention
center or secure facility licensed or certified by the
Office of Juvenile Affairs,

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1 b. employee or applicant of a secure detention center, 2 municipal juvenile facility, community intervention center or secure facility licensed or certified by the 3 Office of Juvenile Affairs, or 4 5 с. persons allowed unsupervised access to children, including contract employees or volunteers, of a 6 7 secure detention center, municipal juvenile facility, community intervention center or secure facility 8 9 licensed or certified by the Office of Juvenile 10 Affairs. 11 в. 1. a. On and after September 1, 1998: 12 any child-placing agency contracting with a (1)13 person for foster family home services or in any 14 manner for services for the care and supervision 15 of children shall also, prior to executing a 16 contract, complete: 17 a foster parent eligibility assessment for (a) 18 the foster care provider except as otherwise 19 provided by divisions (2) and (4) of this 20 subparagraph, and 21 (b) a national criminal history records search 22 based upon submission of fingerprints for 23 any adult residing in the foster family home

through the Department of Human Services

1 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-7-2 106 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, 3 except as otherwise provided by divisions 4 (2) and (4) of this subparagraph, 5 (2) the child-placing agency may place a child 6 pending completion of the national criminal 7 history records search if the foster care 8 provider and every adult residing in the foster 9 family home has resided in this state for at 10 least five (5) years immediately preceding such 11 placement, 12 a national criminal history records search based (3) 13 upon submission of fingerprints to the Oklahoma 14 State Bureau of Investigation shall also be 15 completed for any adult who subsequently moves 16 into the foster family home, 17 (4) provided, however, the Director of Human Services 18 or the Director of the Office of Juvenile 19 Affairs, or a designee, may authorize an 20 exception to the fingerprinting requirement for a 21 person residing in the home who has a severe 22 physical condition which precludes such person's 23 being fingerprinted, and 24

1 (5) any child care facility contracting with any 2 person for foster family home services shall 3 request the Office of Juvenile Affairs to conduct 4 a juvenile justice information system review, 5 pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-7-905 6 and 2-7-308 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma 7 Statutes, for any child over the age of thirteen (13) years residing in the foster family home, 8 9 other than a foster child, or who subsequently 10 moves into the foster family home. As a 11 condition of contract, the child care facility 12 shall obtain the consent of the parent or legal 13 quardian of the child for such review. 14 b. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to

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22 2. a. (1) On and after September 1, 1998, except as
23 otherwise provided in divisions (2) and (4) of
24 this subparagraph, prior to contracting with a

foster family home for placement of any child who is in the custody of the Department of Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Affairs, each Department shall complete a foster parent eligibility assessment, pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act, for such foster family applicant. In addition, except as otherwise provided by divisions (2) and (4) of this subparagraph, the Department shall complete a national criminal history records search based upon submission of fingerprints for any adult residing in such foster family home.

- 14 The Department of Human Services and Office of (2) 15 Juvenile Affairs may place a child pending 16 completion of the national criminal history 17 records search if the foster care provider and 18 every adult residing in the foster family home 19 has resided in this state for at least five (5) 20 years immediately preceding such placement. 21
 - (3) A national criminal history records search based upon submission of fingerprints conducted by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall also

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be completed for any adult who subsequently moves into the foster family home.

- (4) The Director of Human Services or the Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs or their designee may authorize an exception to the fingerprinting requirement for any person residing in the home who has a severe physical condition which precludes such person's being fingerprinted.
- 9 b. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to 10 foster care providers having a contract or contracting 11 with a child-placing agency, the Department of Human 12 Services or the Office of Juvenile Affairs prior to 13 September 1, 1998. Such existing foster care 14 providers shall comply with the provisions of this 15 section, until otherwise provided by rules of the 16 Department or by law.

3. The Department of Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Affairs shall provide for a juvenile justice information system review pursuant to Section 2-7-308 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes for any child over the age of thirteen (13) years residing in a foster family home, other than the foster child, or who subsequently moves into the foster family home.

C. The Department or the Board of Juvenile Affairs shall
 promulgate rules to identify circumstances when a criminal history

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1 records search or foster parent eligibility assessment for an
2 applicant or contractor, or any person over the age of thirteen (13)
3 years residing in a private residence in which a child care facility
4 is located, shall be expanded beyond the records search conducted by
5 the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation or as otherwise provided
6 pursuant to this section.

D. Except as otherwise provided by the Oklahoma Children's Code
and subsection F of this section, a conviction for a crime shall not
be an absolute bar to employment, but shall be considered in
relation to specific employment duties and responsibilities.

E. 1. Information received pursuant to this section by an owner, administrator, or responsible entity of a child care facility, shall be maintained in a confidential manner pursuant to applicable state and federal laws.

15 2. The information, along with any other information relevant 16 to the ability of the individual to perform tasks that require 17 direct contact with children, may be released to another child care 18 facility in response to a request from the child care facility that 19 is considering employing or contracting with the individual unless 20 deemed confidential by state and federal laws.

3. Requirements for confidentiality and recordkeeping with regard to the information shall be the same for the child care facility receiving the information in response to a request as those

1 provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection for the child care 2 facility releasing such information.

Information received by any facility certified by the Office 3 4. 4 of Juvenile Affairs may be released to another facility certified by 5 the Office if an individual is being considered for employment or contract, along with any other relevant information, unless the 6 information is deemed confidential by state or federal law. 7 Any 8 information received by the Office shall be maintained in a 9 confidential manner pursuant to applicable state and federal law. 10 It shall be unlawful for individuals who are required to F. 1. 11 register pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration Act to work with 12 or provide services to children or to reside in a child care 13 facility and for any employer who offers or provides services to 14 children to knowingly and willfully employ or contract with, or 15 allow continued employment of or contracting with individuals who 16 are required to register pursuant to the Sex Offenders Registration 17 Act. Individuals required to register pursuant to the Sex Offenders 18 Registration Act who violate any provision of Section 401 et seq. of 19 this title shall, upon conviction, be quilty of a felony punishable 20 by incarceration in a correctional facility for a period of not more 21 than five (5) years and a fine of not more than Five Thousand 22 Dollars (\$5,000.00) or both such fine and imprisonment.

23 2. It shall be unlawful for an individual who is the

24 perpetrator of a substantiated finding by the Department of heinous

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1 and shocking abuse by a person responsible for a child's health, 2 safety, or welfare, as those terms are defined in Section 1-1-105 of 3 Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, to work with or provide services 4 to children or to reside in a child care facility and for any 5 employer who offers or provides services to children to knowingly and willfully employ or contract with, or allow continued employment 6 7 of or contracting with such individual. 3. Upon a determination by the Department of any violation of 8 9 the provisions of this section, the violator shall be subject to and

- 10 the Department may pursue:
- 11 a. an emergency order,
- 12 b. license revocation or denial,
- 13 c. injunctive proceedings,
- 14 d. an administrative penalty not to exceed Ten Thousand
 15 Dollars (\$10,000.00), and
- 16 e. referral for criminal proceedings.

17 3. 4. In addition to the penalties specified by this section,
18 the violator may be liable for civil damages.

19SECTION 2.AMENDATORY10 O.S. 2011, Section 406, as last20amended by Section 1, Chapter 368, O.S.L. 2019 (10 O.S. Supp. 2020,21Section 406), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 406. A. 1. Except as provided in paragraph 2 of this 23 subsection, the Department of Human Services shall have authority at 24 any reasonable time to investigate and examine the conditions of any 1 child care facility in which a licensee or applicant hereunder 2 receives and maintains children, and shall have authority at any 3 time to require the facility to provide information pertaining to 4 children in its care.

5 2. When the Department of Human Services is reviewing the star 6 rating of a child care program with a capacity of fifty or more, the 7 comprehensive visit to inspect and examine the program shall be 8 scheduled with the administration of the program at least one (1) 9 week in advance of the visit, if requested by the child care 10 facility.

B. 1. The State Department of Health may visit any licensee or applicant at the request of the Department to advise on matters affecting the health of children and to inspect the sanitation of the buildings used for their care.

15 2. The State Fire Marshal may visit any licensee or applicant 16 at the request of the Department to advise on matters affecting the 17 safety of children and to inspect the condition of the buildings 18 used for their care.

19 C. 1. Upon receipt of a complaint against any child care 20 facility alleging a violation of the provisions of the Oklahoma 21 Child Care Facilities Licensing Act, or any licensing standard 22 promulgated by the Department, the Department shall conduct a full 23 investigation. If upon investigation, it is determined that there 24 are reasonable grounds to believe that a facility is in violation of

1 the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act or of any standard 2 or rule promulgated pursuant thereto, the Department shall:

- 3 a.
- document the complaint,
- b. provide the complaint allegations in writing to the 4 5 facility involved and, upon written request by the child care facility, provide a summary of the facts 6 7 used to evaluate the completed complaint, and document the facility's plan for correcting any 8 с. 9 substantiated violations.

10 2. If the Department determines there has been a violation and 11 the violation has a direct impact on the health, safety or well-12 being of one or more of the children cared for by the facility, the 13 Department shall notify the facility and require correction of the 14 violation.

15 The Department shall notify the facility that failure to 3. 16 correct the confirmed violation can result in the revocation of the 17 license, the denial of an application for a license, the issuance of 18 an emergency order or the filing of an injunction pursuant to the 19 provisions of Section 409 of this title.

20 4. If the facility refuses to correct a violation or fails to 21 complete the plan of correction, the Department may issue an 22 emergency order, revoke the license, or deny the application for a 23 license. Nothing in this section or Section 407 of this title shall 24 be construed as preventing the Department from denying an

application, revoking a license, or issuing an emergency order for a
 single violation of this act, or the rules of the Department as
 provided in Section 404 of this title.

4 5. If the Department determines there has been a substantiated 5 finding of heinous and shocking abuse by a person responsible for a 6 child's health, safety or welfare, as those terms are defined in 7 Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, the 8 Department shall notify the child care facility owner or operator 9 and the child care resource and referral organization in writing 10 immediately or not later than one (1) business day after the 11 substantiated finding. Upon receiving notice of a substantiated 12 finding, the facility owner or operator shall attempt to immediately 13 notify, but not later than seventy-two (72) hours after receiving 14 notice of the substantiated finding, parents or legal guardians of 15 children attending the facility by certified mail.

D. Upon the completion of the investigation of a complaint against any child care facility alleging a violation of the provisions of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act or any licensing standard promulgated thereto by the Department, the Department shall clearly designate its findings on the first page of the report of the investigation. The findings shall state whether the complaint was substantiated or unsubstantiated.

E. Information obtained by the Department or Oklahoma Child
 Care Services concerning a report of a violation of a licensing

1 requirement, or from any licensee regarding children or their 2 parents or other relatives shall be deemed confidential and 3 privileged communications, shall be properly safeguarded, and shall 4 not be accessible to anyone except as herein provided, unless upon 5 order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Provided, however, this 6 provision shall not prohibit the Department from providing a summary 7 of allegations and findings of an investigation involving a child 8 care facility that does not disclose identities but that permits 9 parents to evaluate the facility. 10 F. The Department shall promulgate rules to establish and

11 maintain a grievance process that shall include an anonymous 12 complaint system for reporting and investigating complaints or 13 grievances about employees of the Department who retaliate against a 14 child care facility or facility employee.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.
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