

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1980

By: Lepak

8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to courts; providing the intent of
10 the Legislature to promote transparency in the
Judicial Nominating Commission's selection process;
11 requiring the Judicial Nominating Commission to
promulgate certain rules; providing for codification;
12 providing for noncodification; and providing an
effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
17 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

18 A. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Legislature
19 that the Judicial Nominating Commission promulgate rules to promote
20 the transparency of the Judicial Nominating Commission's selection
21 process. It is the public policy of the State of Oklahoma that the
22 people are vested with the inherent right to know and be fully
23 informed about their government. In accordance with this public
24 policy, the Legislature finds that the people have a vested interest

1 in the selection process of justices and judges nominated to
2 judicial office and should be informed of the Judicial Nominating
3 Commission's selection process for each candidate nominated for
4 judicial office.

5 B. It is not the intention of the Legislature that any negative,
6 private, embarrassing or otherwise sensitive information be
7 disclosed by the Judicial Nominating Commission's efforts to
8 increase transparency of the selection process. Specifically, the
9 Legislature does not intend for the background check conducted by
10 the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to be made public.

11 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in
12 the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 25 of Title 20, unless there is
13 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 The Judicial Nominating Commission shall promulgate rules to
15 promote transparency of the selection process of nominees for
16 judicial office. The rules shall be prominently published on the
17 Judicial Nominating Commission's website

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

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