

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 537

By: Haste of the Senate

and

6 Miller of the House

7
8
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2021,
11 Section 600, which relates to definitions; removing
12 definitions; modifying statutory reference; amending
13 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.1, which relates to
14 membership of Oklahoma Commission on Children and
15 Youth; modifying membership of Commission; clarifying
16 term limitation for certain members; requiring
17 membership terms to coincide with fiscal year;
18 amending 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.5, which relates
19 to Director of the Commission; removing duty of
20 Director to receive Commission advice and approval in
21 hiring staff; conforming language; amending 10 O.S.
22 2021, Section 601.6a, which relates to Office of
23 Planning and Coordination for Services to Children
24 and Youth; modifying requirements relating to State
Plan for Services to Children and Youth; specifying
inclusions; conforming language; amending 10 O.S.
2021, Section 601.6b, which relates to State Plan for
Services to Children and Youth; modifying and
eliminating certain requirements relating to State
Plan for Services to Children and Youth; extending
time period of state plan; broadening recipients of
state plan; amending 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.14,
which relates to Children's Endowment Fund of
Oklahoma; modifying purpose of Children's Endowment
Fund of Oklahoma; broadening purpose of Parent
Partnership Board; expanding allowed expenses of
available funds; authorizing certain compensation of
Parent Partnership Board members; limiting

1 expenditures of Children's Endowment Fund of
2 Oklahoma; amending 10 O.S. 2021, Section 1116.6,
3 which relates to Postadjudication Review Advisory
4 Board; conforming language; amending 10 O.S. 2021,
5 Section 1150.2, which relates to the Child Death
6 Review Board; conforming language; repealing 10 O.S.
7 2021, Section 601.9, which relates to evaluation and
8 review of services to children and youth; and
9 declaring an emergency.

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

11 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 600, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 600. As used in Sections 601.1 through ~~601.12~~ 601.14 of
14 this title:

15 1. "Children and youth service system" means health, mental
16 health, social, rehabilitative assistance and educational services
17 provided to children and youth by and through the courts and public
18 and private agencies;

19 2. "Client" means a child or a family member of a child who is
20 receiving services through the children and youth service system;

21 3. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Commission on Children and
22 Youth;

23 4. "Community partnership board" means the local district
24 planning and coordinating body for services to children and youth
established pursuant to Section 601.11 of this title;

1 5. "Community partnership district" means the local planning
2 and coordinating areas within the state established pursuant to
3 Section 601.11 of this title;

4 6. "Homeless children and youth" means a person twenty-one (21)
5 years of age or younger who is:

- 6 a. unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, and
- 7 b. without shelter where appropriate care and supervision
- 8 are available, or
- 9 c. without a parent or guardian who is willing and able
- 10 to provide shelter and care, or
- 11 d. without a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime
- 12 residence. For the purposes of this paragraph,
- 13 "fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence"
- 14 shall not include a supervised publicly or privately
- 15 operated shelter or institution designed to provide
- 16 temporary living accommodations, transitional housing
- 17 arrangements, living in hotels, temporary living
- 18 arrangements with other people but without an
- 19 opportunity for permanent residence or a residential
- 20 lease, or a public or private place not designed for,
- 21 nor ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping
- 22 accommodation for human beings; and

23 7. ~~"Runaway" means an unmarried child less than eighteen (18)~~
24 ~~years of age who is absent from the home of a parent, guardian or~~

1 ~~other lawful placement without the consent of the parent, guardian~~
2 ~~or lawful custodian;~~

3 ~~8. "State and state-supported services to children and youth"~~
4 ~~means services to children and youth, offered or provided by a~~
5 ~~public or private agency or organization, that are supported in~~
6 ~~whole or in part through state funds or federal funds administered~~
7 ~~by the state;~~

8 ~~9. "State Plan for Services to Children and Youth" means the~~
9 ~~planning document required by Section ~~601.9~~ 601.6a of this title;~~
10 ~~and~~

11 ~~10. "Youth at risk of homelessness" means a person twenty-one~~
12 ~~(21) years of age or younger whose status or circumstances indicate~~
13 ~~a significant danger of experiencing homelessness in the near~~
14 ~~future, including but not limited to youth exiting out-of-home~~
15 ~~placements, youth who previously were homeless, youth whose parents~~
16 ~~or guardians are or were previously homeless, youth who are exposed~~
17 ~~to abuse and neglect in their homes, youth who experience excessive~~
18 ~~conflict with their parents and runaways.~~

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.1, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 601.1. A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma
22 Commission on Children and Youth which shall be composed of ~~nineteen~~
23 ~~(19)~~ eighteen (18) members. The membership shall include:

1 1. The Director of the Department of Human Services, the State
2 Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental
3 Health and Substance Abuse Services, the State Superintendent of
4 Public Instruction, the Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care
5 Authority, the Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation
6 Services, and the Chair of the SJR 13 Oversight Committee;

7 2. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs;

8 3. Five members who shall be appointed by the Governor from a
9 list submitted by the governing board of each of the following
10 organizations:

11 a. the Oklahoma Children's Agencies and Residential
12 Enterprises,

13 b. one statewide association of youth services,

14 c. the Oklahoma Bar Association,

15 d. the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association, and

16 e. a statewide court-appointed Special Advocate
17 Association;

18 4. One member appointed by the Governor who shall represent one
19 of the metropolitan juvenile bureaus;

20 5. One member representing business or industry, appointed by
21 the Governor;

22 6. One member who is the parent of a child with special needs,
23 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
24

1 7. One member with a demonstrated interest in improving
2 children's services who is not employed by a state agency or a
3 private organization that receives state funds, appointed by the
4 President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

5 ~~8. One member who represents a community partnership board to~~
6 ~~be elected pursuant to the guidelines established by the Oklahoma~~
7 ~~Commission on Children and Youth; and~~

8 ~~9.~~ One member who shall be appointed by the Governor from a
9 list of three names submitted by the Post Adjudication Review Board.

10 B. The appointed members shall have had active experience in
11 services to children and youth and may serve four terms of two (2)
12 years each. ~~Any appointed member serving on the Commission on the~~
13 ~~effective date of this act shall be entitled to complete his or her~~
14 ~~term and shall be eligible to serve one additional term of two (2)~~
15 ~~years. Any person who served on the Commission prior to the~~
16 ~~effective date of this act shall be eligible to serve one additional~~
17 ~~term of two (2) years~~ A person appointed to fill the remainder of a
18 vacant term shall, upon completion of that term, be eligible to
19 serve four additional two-year terms. Terms shall coincide with the
20 fiscal year.

21 C. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall provide
22 a monthly report on commission member attendance to the appointing
23 authorities.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 601.5. A. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall appoint a Director who shall be a person having experience in the operation and administration of services to children and youth. Such Director shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years~~7~~ and may be reappointed. Such Director may be dismissed only for cause. The Director shall:

1. Employ such staff as may be necessary to perform the duties of the Commission,~~with the advice and approval of the Commission;~~

2. Prepare the State Plan for Services to Children and Youth~~7~~, ~~the Annual Report required by Section 601.9 of this title,~~ other reports as necessary and appropriate~~7~~, and an annual budget for the approval of the Commission;

3. Formulate and recommend rules and regulations for approval or rejection by the Commission;

4. Serve as chief executive officer of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth; and

5. Act as agent as authorized for the Commission in the performance of its duties.

B. The Director may periodically convene issue-specific task groups for the purpose of improving services for children and youth. A copy of any report or recommendations which result from meetings of a task group shall be provided to the Commission, Governor,

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of
2 the Senate and the director of each state agency affected by the
3 report or recommendations.

4 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.6a, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 601.6a. The Office of Planning and Coordination for
7 Services to Children and Youth shall:

8 1. Convene meetings of public and private agencies that provide
9 services to children and youth for the purpose of facilitating and
10 implementing joint planning and service coordination among said
11 agencies;

12 2. Provide the community partnership boards with fiscal and
13 other information related to the children and youth service system
14 necessary to assist the partnership boards with the performance of
15 their duties and responsibilities;

16 3. ~~Annually prepare, with the advice and assistance of the~~
17 ~~community partnership boards~~ Prepare, with the advice and assistance
18 of the Parent Partnership Board and affected public and private
19 agencies, ~~the~~ a State Plan for Services to Children and Youth for
20 the approval of the Commission. The State Plan for Services to
21 Children and Youth shall include recommendations regarding the
22 development and improvement of services provided to children and
23 youth and such other information as may be required by the
24 Commission;

1 4. Examine all plans, budgets and related documents pertaining
2 to the planning, coordination and development of the children and
3 youth service system;

4 5. Review, monitor and evaluate the children and youth service
5 system regarding the development of services, progress towards
6 effective joint planning and service coordination, and compliance
7 with established state policies and goals; and

8 6. Issue reports to the Governor, Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Chief Justice
10 of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma, public and private
11 agencies, and such other persons as necessary and appropriate.

12 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.6b, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 601.6b. A. On or before ~~July 1 of each year~~ July 1,
15 2023, and on or before July 1 of every third year thereafter, the
16 Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall transmit to the
17 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services ~~and to,~~
18 the director of each affected agency, the President Pro Tempore of
19 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
20 Governor a copy of the State Plan for Services to Children and Youth
21 for the next three (3) fiscal year years.

22 B. ~~The Office of Planning and Coordination shall on or before~~
23 ~~January 1 of each year provide a written report to the Legislature~~
24 ~~on its expenditures to community partnership boards.~~

1 ~~C.~~ The Office of Planning and Coordination, with the assistance
2 of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services and affected
3 agencies, may assemble topic-specific reports regarding services to
4 children, youth, and families to include program descriptions, past
5 and current expenditures, future budget requests, and a description
6 of program outcomes as directed by the Legislature or the
7 Commission.

8 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.14, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 601.14. A. There is hereby created in the State
11 Treasury a fund for the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth to
12 be designated the "Children's Endowment Fund of Oklahoma". The fund
13 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
14 and shall consist of all monies received through donations or
15 interest earned by investment of monies in the fund. The fund shall
16 be invested by the State Treasurer in accordance with Section 89.2
17 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

18 B. Funds deposited into the Children's Endowment Fund of
19 Oklahoma and any earnings therefrom, including any interest,
20 dividends or realized capital gains from investment of monies in the
21 fund, shall be administered by the Oklahoma Commission on Children
22 and Youth ~~for the purpose of awarding grants in order to stimulate~~
23 which is authorized to award grants to further the public purpose of
24 stimulating a broad range of innovative programs, activities or

1 research or evaluation that will improve the well-being and reduce
2 the adverse childhood experiences of Oklahoma's children. The funds
3 shall not be used to expand existing services or to support ongoing
4 core services. The Commission may also direct the State Treasurer
5 to reinvest any earnings into the corpus of the fund.

6 C. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall
7 promulgate rules to:

8 1. Establish a Parent Partnership Board for the purpose of
9 informing the work of Oklahoma's child-serving systems ~~including the~~
10 ~~development and evaluation of the grants,~~ assisting members of the
11 Commission and their respective entities with areas of concern,
12 supporting the Commission in the process of developing and awarding
13 grants supported by the Children's Endowment Fund of Oklahoma and
14 other activities upon request; and

15 2. Establish criteria and procedures for awarding grants
16 supported by the Children's Endowment Fund of Oklahoma.

17 D. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth ~~shall~~ may use
18 up to ten percent (10%) of the funds deposited in the Children's
19 Endowment Fund of Oklahoma ~~to be available to the Commission~~ in any
20 given fiscal year to provide administration, oversight, training or
21 evaluation of the grantees or the Parent Partnership Board.

22 E. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth may use
23 available public or private funds to compensate members of the
24 Parent Partnership Board for their time, reimburse for travel as

1 provided by the State Travel Reimbursement Act, reimburse childcare
2 expenses, and provide any materials and supplies necessary for
3 carrying out their duties.

4 F. Monies from the fund may be expended by the Oklahoma
5 Commission on Children and Youth in accordance with the provisions
6 of this section upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against
7 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
8 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

9 G. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds deposited
10 in the Children's Endowment Fund of Oklahoma shall only be expended
11 as provided in this section.

12 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 1116.6, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 1116.6. A. There is hereby created a State
15 Postadjudication Review Advisory Board which shall meet at least
16 twice each calendar year. The Advisory Board shall have the duty of
17 overseeing the implementation of the state postadjudication review
18 program in coordination with the Oklahoma Commission on Children and
19 Youth.

20 B. The Advisory Board shall consist of twenty-one (21) members
21 appointed by the Governor as follows:

22 1. Eight of the members shall be members of the various review
23 boards throughout the state;

24 2. Five of the members shall be judges of the district court;

1 3. Five of the members shall represent the general public and
2 may be foster parents;

3 4. One of the members appointed after the effective date of
4 this act shall be a foster parent representing foster parents who
5 have a current contract with the Department of Human Services to
6 provide foster care services;

7 5. One of the members appointed after the effective date of
8 this act shall be a foster parent representing child-placing
9 agencies which have current contracts with the Department to provide
10 foster care services; and

11 6. One of the members appointed after the effective date of
12 this act shall be a foster parent nominated by any local or
13 statewide foster parent association.

14 The members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The
15 administrative heads of the divisions which have foster care
16 responsibilities within the Department of Human Services and the
17 Office of Juvenile Affairs or their designees shall serve as ex
18 officio members of the Board.

19 C. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and
20 Youth shall be the clerk of the Advisory Board.

21 The Advisory Board shall have the duty to:

22 1. Assist in the training of the members of the review boards;

23 2. Serve, in coordination with the Oklahoma Commission on
24 Children and Youth, as a clearinghouse for reports and information

1 concerning the foster care review program and the review boards as
2 they relate to foster care;

3 3. Make recommendations to the courts, the Oklahoma Commission
4 on Children and Youth, the Governor, the Legislature, the Department
5 of Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, and other state
6 agencies providing services to children regarding proposed statutory
7 revisions, and amendments to court rules and procedures, and review
8 and make recommendations on permanency planning, foster care and
9 child welfare service delivery policies, guidelines, and procedures;

10 4. Work with both public and private agencies concerned with
11 foster care and adoption exchanges to inform the public of the need
12 for temporary and permanent homes and other services needed by
13 deprived children; and

14 5. Specifically:

- 15 a. identify, analyze, and recommend solutions to any
16 issue concerning child welfare and foster care
17 services within the child welfare delivery system,
- 18 b. participate in the statewide planning and promotion of
19 foster parent involvement in local planning for child
20 welfare services, and
- 21 c. develop recommendations concerning foster care
22 training to improve the quality of foster care
23 services.

1 D. The State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board may
2 designate multidisciplinary committees on the local level to act as
3 advocates for foster parents in order to assist in the resolution of
4 specific complaints concerning foster care and to help facilitate
5 the relationship between the Department of Human Services, the
6 Office of Juvenile Affairs, child-placing agencies, and the foster
7 parents.

8 E. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, with the
9 assistance of the State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board,
10 shall be responsible for developing and administering training
11 procedures and rules for the administration of the state
12 postadjudication review board system.

13 F. The State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board shall
14 submit a report of the activities of the review boards, including
15 the findings and recommendations of such review boards, to the
16 Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth on or before May 1 of each
17 year.

18 ~~G. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall~~
19 ~~incorporate, as appropriate, the findings and recommendations of the~~
20 ~~review boards in the annual report required by Section 601.9 of this~~
21 ~~title.~~

22 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 1150.2, is
23 amended to read as follows:
24

1 Section 1150.2. A. There is hereby re-created until July 1,
2 2023, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Child Death
3 Review Board within the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.
4 The Board shall have the power and duty to:

5 1. Conduct case reviews of deaths and near deaths of children
6 in this state;

7 2. Develop accurate statistical information and identification
8 of deaths of children due to abuse and neglect;

9 3. Improve the ability to provide protective services to the
10 surviving siblings of a child or children who die of abuse or
11 neglect and who may be living in a dangerous environment;

12 4. Improve policies, procedures and practices within the
13 agencies that serve children, including the child protection system;

14 5. Enter into agreements with local teams established by the
15 Child Death Review Board to carry out such duties and
16 responsibilities as the Child Death Review Board shall designate,
17 including reviewing cases assigned by the Board in the geographical
18 area for that local team. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and
19 Youth, with the advice of the Child Death Review Board, shall
20 promulgate rules as necessary for the implementation and
21 administration of the provisions of this paragraph; and

22 6. Enter into agreements with other state, local, or private
23 entities as necessary to carry out the duties of the Child Death
24 Review Board including, but not limited to, conducting joint reviews

1 with the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board on domestic
2 violence cases involving child death or child near-death incidents.

3 B. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities the Board
4 shall:

5 1. Establish criteria for cases involving the death or near
6 death of a child subject to specific, in-depth review by the Board.
7 As used in this section, the term "near death" means a child is in
8 serious or critical condition, as certified by a physician, as a
9 result of abuse or neglect;

10 2. Conduct a specific case review of those cases where the
11 cause of death or near death is or may be related to abuse or
12 neglect of a child;

13 3. Establish and maintain statistical information related to
14 the deaths and near deaths of children including, but not limited
15 to, demographic and medical diagnostic information;

16 4. Establish procedures for obtaining initial information
17 regarding near deaths of children from the Department of Human
18 Services and law enforcement agencies;

19 5. Review the policies, practices, and procedures of the child
20 protection system and make specific recommendations to the entities
21 comprising the child protection system for actions necessary for the
22 improvement of the system;

23 6. Review the extent to which the state child protection system
24 is coordinated with foster care and adoption programs and evaluate

1 whether the state is efficiently discharging its child protection
2 responsibilities under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and
3 Treatment Act state plan;

4 7. As necessary and appropriate, for the protection of the
5 siblings of a child who dies and whose siblings are deemed to be
6 living in a dangerous environment, refer specific cases to the
7 Department of Human Services or the appropriate district attorney
8 for further investigation;

9 8. Request and obtain a copy of all records and reports
10 pertaining to a child whose case is under review including, but not
11 limited to:

- 12 a. the report of the medical examiner,
- 13 b. hospital records,
- 14 c. school records,
- 15 d. court records,
- 16 e. prosecutorial records,
- 17 f. local, state, and federal law enforcement records
18 including, but not limited to, the Oklahoma State
19 Bureau of Investigation (OSBI),
- 20 g. fire department records,
- 21 h. State Department of Health records, including birth
22 certificate records,
- 23 i. medical and dental records,
- 24

- j. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and other mental health records,
- k. emergency medical service records,
- l. files of the Department of Human Services, and
- m. records in the possession of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board when conducting a joint review pursuant to paragraph 6 of subsection A of this section.

Confidential information provided to the Board shall be maintained by the Board in a confidential manner as otherwise required by state and federal law. Any person damaged by disclosure of such confidential information by the Board, its local boards or their members, not authorized by law, may maintain an action for damages, costs and attorney fees;

9. Maintain all confidential information, documents and records in possession of the Board as confidential and not subject to subpoena or discovery in any civil or criminal proceedings; provided, however, information, documents and records otherwise available from other sources shall not be exempt from subpoena or discovery through those sources solely because such information, documents and records were presented to or reviewed by the Board;

10. Conduct reviews of specific cases of deaths and near deaths of children and request the preparation of additional information and reports as determined to be necessary by the Board including,

1 but not limited to, clinical summaries from treating physicians,
2 chronologies of contact, and second-opinion autopsies;

3 11. Report, if recommended by a majority vote of the Board, to
4 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
5 of Representatives any gross neglect of duty by any state officer or
6 state employee, or any problem within the child protective services
7 system discovered by the Board while performing its duties;

8 12. Recommend, when appropriate, amendment of the cause or
9 manner of death listed on the death certificate; and

10 13. Subject to the approval of the Oklahoma Commission on
11 Children and Youth, exercise all incidental powers necessary and
12 proper for the implementation and administration of the Child Death
13 Review Board Act.

14 C. The review and discussion of individual cases of death or
15 near death of a child shall be conducted in executive session and in
16 compliance with the confidentiality requirements of Section 1-6-102
17 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes. All other business shall be
18 conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open
19 Meeting Act. All discussions of individual cases and any writings
20 produced by or created for the Board in the course of its remedial
21 measure and recommended by the Board, as the result of a review of
22 an individual case of the death or near death of a child, shall be
23 privileged and shall not be admissible in evidence in any
24 proceeding. The Board shall periodically conduct meetings to

1 discuss organization and business matters and any actions or
2 recommendations aimed at improvement of the child protection system
3 which shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Part of
4 any meeting of the Board may be specifically designated as a
5 business meeting of the Board subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting
6 Act.

7 D. 1. The Board shall submit an annual statistical report on
8 the incidence and causes of death and near death of children in this
9 state for which the Board has completed its review during the past
10 calendar year, including its recommendations, to the Oklahoma
11 Commission on Children and Youth on or before May 1 of each year.
12 The Board shall also prepare and make available to the public, on an
13 annual basis, a report containing a summary of the activities of the
14 Board relating to the review of deaths and near deaths of children,
15 the extent to which the state child protection system is coordinated
16 with foster care and adoption programs, and an evaluation of whether
17 the state is efficiently discharging its child protection
18 responsibilities. The report shall be completed no later than
19 December 31 of each year.

20 2. The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall review
21 the report of the Board and, as appropriate, incorporate the
22 findings and recommendations into ~~the annual Commission report and~~
23 the State Plan for Services to Children and Youth.
24

1 SECTION 9. REPEALER 10 O.S. 2021, Section 601.9, is
2 hereby repealed.

3 SECTION 10. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
4 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
5 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
6 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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