

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1980

By: Lepak

7
8
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

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

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

1 policy, the Legislature finds that the people have a vested interest
2 in the selection process of justices and judges nominated to
3 judicial office and should be informed of the Judicial Nominating
4 Commission's selection process for each candidate nominated for
5 judicial office.

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

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

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

19 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.
20

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY - CIVIL, dated
22 02/18/2021 - DO PASS, As Amended.
23
24