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By: Lepak of the House

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

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

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
20 March 23, 2021 - DO PASS  
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