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AS AMENDED

By: Caldwell (Chad) of the
House

Daniels of the Senate

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1 official, contracting with a private attorney or attorneys pursuant
2 to this section.

3 B. When entering into a contract for legal representation by
4 one or more private attorneys, an agency or official of the
5 executive branch shall select an attorney or attorneys from a list
6 of attorneys maintained by the Attorney General. An agency may
7 contract for legal representation with one or more attorneys who are
8 not on the list only when there is no attorney on the list capable
9 of providing the specific representation and only with the approval
10 of the Attorney General. The list shall include any attorney who
11 desires to furnish services to an agency or official of the
12 executive branch and who has filed a schedule of fees for services
13 with and on a form approved by the Attorney General. An agency or
14 official may agree to deviate from the schedule of fees only with
15 the approval of the Attorney General.

16 C. Before entering into a contract for legal representation by
17 one or more private attorneys, an agency or official of the
18 executive branch shall furnish a copy of the proposed contract to
19 the Attorney General and, if not fully described in the contract,
20 notify the Attorney General of the following:

21 1. The nature and scope of the representation including, but
22 not limited to, a description of any pending or anticipated
23 litigation or of the transaction requiring representation;
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1 2. The reason or reasons for not obtaining the representation
2 from an attorney employed by the agency or official, if an attorney
3 is employed by the agency or official;

4 3. The reason or reasons for not obtaining the representation
5 from the Attorney General by contract;

6 4. The anticipated cost of the representation including the
7 following:

8 a. the basis for or method of calculation of the fee
9 including, when applicable, the hourly rate for each
10 attorney, paralegal, legal assistant, or other person
11 who will perform services under the contract, and

12 b. the basis for and method of calculation of any
13 expenses which will be reimbursed by the agency or
14 official under the contract; and

15 5. An estimate of the anticipated duration of the contract.

16 D. Before entering into a contract for legal representation by
17 one or more private attorneys where the agency has reason to believe
18 that the case, transaction or matter will equal or exceed Twenty
19 Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) or after employment when it becomes
20 apparent that the case, transaction or matter will equal or exceeds
21 Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00), an agency or official of the
22 executive branch shall obtain the approval of the Attorney General
23 when the total cost, including fees and expenses, of all contracts
24 relating to the same case, transaction, or matter will equal or

1 exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00). Any amendment,
2 modification, or extension of a contract which, had it been a part
3 of the original contract would have required approval by the
4 Attorney General, shall also require approval by the Attorney
5 General.

6 E. When an agency or official of the executive branch enters
7 into a contract for professional legal services pursuant to this
8 section, the agency shall also comply with the applicable provisions
9 of Section 85.41 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

10 F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the
11 Oklahoma Indigent Defense System created pursuant to Section 1355 et
12 seq. of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

13 G. The Attorney General shall, on or before February 1 of each
14 year, make a written report on legal representation obtained
15 pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection A of this section. The
16 report shall include a brief description of each contract, the
17 circumstances necessitating each contract, and the amount paid or to
18 be paid under each contract. The report shall be filed with the
19 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of
20 the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Appropriations and
21 Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, and the Chair of
22 the Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

23 H. No attorney shall provide legal advice to any state board or
24 commission if the attorney is employed by an agency, board,

1 commission, department or other state government entity that has a
2 voting member serving on the state board or commission, **except an**
3 **attorney who provides legal advice to any member who acts in a**
4 **quasi-judicial capacity to adjudicate matters brought before the**
5 **state board or commission pursuant to statute.** Nothing in this
6 subsection shall prohibit an attorney from serving on a state
7 government board or commission.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
10 April 12, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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