

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB3468
Version:	FA1
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Lawson
Date:	3/9/2022
Impact:	\$18 million

Research Analysis

FA1 moves to create the Parent Representation Program within the Administrative Office of the Courts as opposed to an agency to be selected by the Oklahoma Supreme Court's Uniform Representation of Children and Parents in Cases Involving Abuse and Neglect Oversight Committee.

HB3468 creates the Parent Representation Program which will ensure uniform and high-quality legal representation for indigent parents, legal guardians, and custodians in deprived child actions. The program will also:

- Work statewide with judicial districts and attorneys by contracting with, training, compensating, and supporting legal counsel for the parents, legal guardians, and custodians appointed by the court
- Ensure underrepresented areas of the state are equitably served
- Ensure counsel and contractors are adequately compensated

The program will be created within the Administrative Office of the Courts. The measure also creates a 12 member Parent Representation Program Board to establish and provide program oversight. Members serve three-year terms, receive no compensation, and are eligible for reappointment. An executive director for the Parent Representation Program will be employed by the eligible organization and approved by the Board. The executive director will hire all staff and must submit budget requests and report quarterly to the Board. Last, the measure creates a revolving fund to be designated the "Parent Representation Program Revolving Fund." An annual report outlining performance measures for the program and recommendation for ongoing appropriations will be transmitted annually to the Legislature no later than December 31.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach

Fiscal Analysis:

The floor amendment to HB3468 allows for an agency be selected by the Administrative Office the Courts and does not negate the estimate provided by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

From the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, if the agency were to administer the program:

The fiscal impact to carry out this legislation will be \$18 million.

-\$17,550,000 will be bid to a vendor to provide central office staff to oversee the contracts and coordination of services (\$487,500) and contracts for legal representation (\$17,062,500).

-\$450,000 (up to 2.5%) may be available to OCCY for administrative costs associated with the contract.

If another agency were to administer the program, there might a slight variation in the fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson

Other Considerations

None.