

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1020
Version:	INT
Request No.:	1403
Author:	Sen. Dahm
Date:	01/29/2021

Bill Analysis

SB 1020 creates the Oklahoma Learning Pod Protection Act. The measure defines “learning pod” as a voluntary association of parents choosing to group their children together at various times or places to participate in or enhance their children’s education programming and care. The measure exempts learning pods from all provisions of Title 70, all provisions related to child care licensing including the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act, any state or local building or fire codes applicable to educational or child care facilities and any other state or local statute, rule or code that would not otherwise apply to any group, building, or facility.

The measure prohibits any state, local or school district employee from visiting, inspecting, or investigating the site of a learning pod and prohibits any state, local or school district employee from visiting or investigating the site of a learning pod based on any federal law, rule, policy, or other federal authority. The measure prohibits a school district from taking any action or discriminating against or otherwise distinguishing any student or parent based on participating in a learning pod. The bill also prohibits any state agency, local government, or school district from requiring a learning pod to register or report its existence or anything related to its operation. It clarifies that the act does not alter the regulation of any childcare facility, childcare center or family childcare home that is not a learning pod. The measure states that if the state, a local government, or a school district is alleged to have violated the provisions of the act, the state, a local government or school district must establish by clear and convincing evidence that the challenged law, regulation, policy or action does not impede the freedom of parents to provide care and supervision of children, does not single out certain educational activities and is narrowly tailored to protect health and safety.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor