

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB3531 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by
inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Amendment submitted by: Trish Ranson

Adopted: _____

Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 3531

By: Ranson

PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to children; creating the Early
Childhood Task Force; providing for task force
membership; providing for election of chair and vice-
chair; permitting the selection of honorary chair;
directing task force to provide reports; disallowing
certain members from receiving compensation or
reimbursement; permitting certain members to claim
certain expenses; requiring task force to be subject
to the Oklahoma Open Records Act and Oklahoma Open
Meeting Act; providing that task force documents and
recommendations shall only be considered advice;
providing a vision statement; providing a mission;
providing principles the task force is to be guided
by; providing tasks for the task force; providing for
codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 390 of Title 10, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. There is hereby created the Early Childhood Task Force to
2 study and make recommendations to improve access to and increase the
3 quantity of high-quality early childhood services.

4 B. The task force shall be comprised of twenty (20) members to
5 be appointed as follows:

6 1. The Secretary of Human Services, or a designee;

7 2. The State Commissioner of Health, or a designee;

8 3. The Secretary of Commerce, or a designee;

9 4. The Secretary of Education, or a designee;

10 5. A representative of business selected by the State Chamber
11 of Oklahoma;

12 6. A representative of a philanthropic organization dedicated
13 to early childhood;

14 7. A representative selected by the Director of Oklahoma Head
15 Start;

16 8. A representative selected by the Licensed Child Care
17 Association of Oklahoma;

18 9. A representative selected by the Oklahoma Child Care
19 Association;

20 10. The Executive Director of Oklahoma Partnership for School
21 Readiness;

22 11. A representative of the Children's Advocacy Centers of
23 Oklahoma;

1 12. A representative of the Oklahoma Institute for Child
2 Advocacy;

3 13. An Oklahoma State Senator selected by the Pro Tempore of
4 the Senate;

5 14. An Oklahoma State Representative selected by the Speaker of
6 the House of Representatives;

7 15. A representative of the Oklahoma Parent Teacher
8 Association;

9 16. A representative of parents with young children selected by
10 the Oklahoma Early Childhood Program (OECF);

11 17. A representative responsible for programs under Part C of
12 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) selected by
13 the State Commissioner of Health;

14 18. A representative from Oklahoma State University's
15 Department of Human Development and Family Science selected by the
16 Director of the Department of Human Development and Family Science;

17 19. A pediatric specialist selected by the Oklahoma Chapter of
18 the American Academy of Pediatrics (OKAAP); and

19 20. A child development specialist selected by the Early
20 Childhood Education Institute.

21 C. The Early Childhood Task Force shall elect a chair and vice-
22 chair, or co-chairs, from the Task Force's membership, and the chair
23 or co-chairs shall establish rules for the Task Force's meetings and
24

1 the conducting of business. Upon the absence or vacancy of the
2 chair, the vice-chair shall serve as chair in an acting capacity.

3 D. An honorary chair may be selected to serve in a ceremonial
4 capacity. The honorary chair shall not serve as a voting member of
5 the Task Force but may engage with the work of the Task Force in an
6 advisory role or in a manner deemed appropriate by the chair or co-
7 chairs.

8 E. The Task Force shall develop and submit an initial report to
9 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
10 of Representatives by November 2024 and a final report by November
11 2025.

12 F. Members shall receive no compensation or reimbursement for
13 expenses and shall serve voluntarily. Officers or employees of
14 state agencies who are appointed to the Task Force as part of their
15 duties shall be authorized to participate on the Task Force and may
16 claim subsistence, allowance, mileage, or associated expenses from
17 their respective agency budgets as permitted by law.

18 G. The Task Force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Records
19 Act and the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

20 H. Plans, reports, or recommendations of any nature adopted by
21 the Task Force shall be considered advice to the Legislature and
22 shall not be construed as official policies, positions, or
23 interpretations of laws, rules, or regulations by any department or
24 agency of state government, nor shall any such department or agency

1 be bound in any manner to consider such advice when conducting their
2 advisory and regulatory affairs.

3 I. The Task Force shall be guided by the following vision
4 statement: Oklahoma children, especially those between zero (0) and
5 five (5) years of age deserve healthy childhoods that are supported
6 by a robust early childhood system which improves outcomes and
7 effectively provides high-quality early care and education, adapts
8 to the needs of families and communities, and is equitably
9 accessible to all communities across the state.

10 J. The Task Force shall work towards the mission of creating a
11 framework for a more efficient and effective governance structure
12 for early childhood programming, such as a coordinated,
13 consolidated, or new independent agency.

14 K. The Task Force's work shall be guided by a commitment to the
15 following principles:

16 1. Children, family, and community well-being shall be centered
17 throughout the Early Childhood Task Force's work;

18 2. Efforts shall be focused on maximizing efficiencies to
19 reduce the administrative burdens on families and improve access to
20 early childhood services through the creation of a new governance
21 structure;

22 3. Any possible consolidation of early childhood services shall
23 be informed by what families and communities say they want and need;
24

1 4. Access to programs and services shall be equitable and
2 available to all children and families regardless of socioeconomic
3 status or geographic location;

4 5. Intentional focus shall be placed on developing strategies
5 to reach families and young children in care deserts or furthest
6 from opportunity and existing resources;

7 6. Access to affordable and quality healthcare, nutrition,
8 childcare, mental health, home visiting, early intervention, support
9 for families, early learning, and other services in the critical
10 prenatal to five (5) age period will decisively impact academic
11 success, economic opportunities, and the prosperity of Oklahoma;

12 7. Efforts shall be made to use data-informed approaches and
13 explore better ways to develop shared data systems;

14 8. Work shall focus on strengthening and expanding the
15 childcare delivery system already in use in Oklahoma;

16 9. Alignment across sectors and state agencies will increase
17 capacity, maximize funding, and create a more streamlined delivery
18 of services;

19 10. The importance of growing a diverse and well-supported
20 early childhood workforce shall remain at the forefront and be
21 informed by the Task Force's work;

22 11. While focusing on advancing the delivery system, work shall
23 highlight the importance of defining quality care and expanding
24

1 capacity and access to create a greater quantity of quality
2 services;

3 12. To incentivize innovation and respond to family needs,
4 communities must be empowered to develop local, community-based
5 solutions that take a whole-child and whole-family approach in
6 responding to needs;

7 13. To ensure holistic childhood well-being and improve health
8 outcomes, there must be alignment between state efforts to improve
9 early learning and care and existing prenatal and maternal health
10 initiatives; and

11 14. Strengthening early childhood developmental health is vital
12 to ensuring that children are prepared to achieve academic success
13 and are setup for lifelong learning.

14 L. The Task Force's duties shall include:

15 1. Conducting an analysis of the current early childhood
16 delivery system in Oklahoma and how it is financed with specific
17 focus on gaps, inefficiencies, and redundancies. This work should
18 focus on how creating a new governance structure for early childhood
19 services could overcome these challenges and improve how care is
20 delivered, accessed, and funded. This analysis must specifically
21 include:

22 a. a review of current early childhood programs and
23 policies dispersed between the Department of Human
24 Services, State Department of Health, Oklahoma

1 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
2 Services, and the State Department of Education. The
3 review should pay special attention to where current
4 statutory authority over certain operations exists and
5 where possible areas of redundancy occur,

6 b. a review of how current funding systems blend and
7 various funding opportunities, with special attention
8 as to how funding streams are currently utilized for
9 early childhood programs that are housed across
10 departments. This fiscal review should map the routes
11 all private, public, federal, and state funding
12 streams take from funding authority to program
13 application,

14 c. a review of how Oklahoma might integrate existing
15 programming into a consolidated delivery system and
16 what needs might exist for new programming that the
17 state currently lacks,

18 d. recommendations on how cross-agency collaboration and
19 partnerships can be fostered to develop a whole-of-
20 government approach to strengthening the delivery of
21 early childhood services,

22 (1) specifically ensuring that data infrastructure is
23 integrated across agencies, account for both
24

- 1 qualitative and quantitative methods, and can be
2 widely utilized by multiple state agencies,
- 3 e. recommendations on how a new governance structure
4 might maximize efficiencies for early childhood
5 providers and their workforce. This work should
6 determine how licensing, workforce development and
7 support, and facility review can be improved to
8 eliminate barriers to entry for providers and
9 professionals. This should also include a review of
10 current regulatory structures that complicate the
11 process of entering the early childhood sector,
- 12 f. recommendations on how a new governance structure can
13 strengthen the existing health care workforce to
14 better support the development of young children and
15 well-being of mothers through improved access to
16 comprehensive and preventive care. This should also
17 include a review of how to secure improved health
18 outcomes for children, financial sustainability of
19 delivery models, and cultivating workforce pipelines,
- 20 g. an analysis of key lessons learned from states already
21 advancing consolidated systems of early childhood
22 governance to inform Oklahoma's own process;

23 2. Conducting a series of stakeholder engagement opportunities
24 to elicit feedback on the current early childhood governance

1 structure and better understand the needs of parents, families,
2 providers, and businesses:

- 3 a. following the engagement of stakeholders, the Task
4 Force shall conduct a review that synthesizes feedback
5 received from families, providers, community leaders,
6 and the business sector. This review shall include
7 recommendations on how the state delivery system and
8 governance model can be improved to respond to family
9 and community needs. It shall also include
10 recommendations for how the state can better engage
11 with parents, families, and communities on a regular
12 basis to ensure family-voice is centered in the work
13 of state agencies;

14 3. Drafting a proposed transition plan to ensure the continuous
15 operation of state services upon the creation of a new governance
16 structure for early childhood. This plan shall:

- 17 a. include detailed recommendations for what programs and
18 services should remain in their current place or
19 transition into a new governance structure. Each
20 recommendation shall consider the challenges and
21 benefits of moving programs,
- 22 b. focus on movement between agencies and how
23 collaboration can be strengthened with nonexecutive
24

1 agencies. It shall also include recommendations for
2 any necessary interagency agreements,

3 c. include a review of what additional funding and
4 resources might be needed to transition to a new
5 governance structure effectively and efficiently,

6 d. provide recommended goals and metrics for the new
7 entity to strive towards once operational; and

8 4. Drafting proposed legislation that creates a new governance
9 structure that oversees Oklahoma's early childhood education and
10 care programs.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

12
13 59-2-10498 CMA 02/27/24
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24