

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 907</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>755</b>
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**Bill Analysis**

SB 907 creates the Family Representation and Advocacy Act. The measure creates a new program, designated as the Family Representation and Advocacy Program, Administrative Office of the Courts. The new program shall ensure uniform and high quality legal representation for children and indigent parents, legal guardians, and Indian custodians in deprived child actions brought by the state. The measure directs the Office to issue a request for proposals and contract with an eligible organization to administer the Family Representation and Advocacy Program through the establishment of a central office for the state using funds appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose of implementing the Family Representation and Advocacy Act. The program shall work cooperatively with judicial districts and attorneys as well as contract with, train, compensate, and support legal counsel for children. The measure requires the entity selected to implement the Program to employ an executive director with the requisite expertise outlined in the measure. The director shall serve the program fulltime and shall not be engaged in work outside of the Program. Counsel employed by the program shall be in good standing with the Oklahoma Bar Association. The program shall prioritize judicial districts where attorneys are unavailable for court appointments or are minimally compensated. The measure creates the Family Representation and Advocacy Program Board to oversee the program. The Board shall be comprised of 13 members. The measure creates the Family Representation and Advocacy Program Revolving Fund. The Office shall disburse monies from the Fund beginning January 31, 2024, and may retain 2.5% of monies deposited in the Fund for administrative purposes.

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