

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2513

By: Pittman, Waldron,
Rosecrants, Hefner, Roe,
and Talley of the House

3
4 and

Pugh of the Senate

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8 [schools - unaddressed trauma in children - Handle
9 With Care Oklahoma program - coordination between
10 public agencies and community coalitions -
11 applicable traumatic events - notification -
12 Oklahoma School Security Institute model protocol
13 and training - Department of Mental Health and
14 Substance Abuse Services - rule promulgation -
15 funding sources - annual report - noncodification -
16 codification - effective date]

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
21 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

22 A. The Problem.

23 Research shows that unaddressed trauma can undermine children's
24 ability to learn, form relationships, and function appropriately in

1 the classroom. In the past, calling the Oklahoma Department of
2 Human Services statewide centralized hotline to make a mandated
3 child welfare report was one of the only tools in the first
4 responder's toolbox, but most children and teens do not meet the
5 criteria for a child welfare report. Consequently, the children and
6 teens are never identified, nor do they receive services, and they
7 linger in traumatic situations without adequate support. These
8 students have an increased risk for negative outcomes such as poor
9 academic performance, truancy, dropping out of school, and
10 delinquency.

11 B. The Handle With Care Oklahoma Program Purpose.

12 Handle With Care (HWC) Oklahoma is a program designed to enhance
13 existing cross-agency communication and partnership between local
14 law enforcement, community mental health services and supports, and
15 schools regarding children's exposure to traumatic events. The
16 "Handle With Care" approach enables first responders to start
17 building trust and positive connections with children and teens they
18 encounter at a traumatic scene and through a HWC notification, local
19 schools and mental health providers can provide trauma-sensitive
20 support immediately as needed. HWC is aimed at ensuring that
21 children who are exposed to crime, violence, and abuse receive
22 appropriate interventions so they can succeed in school to the best
23 of their ability. Children must feel safe in order to learn.

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1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.164 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Legislature shall appropriate funds to support the
5 implementation and operation of the Handle With Care (HWC) Oklahoma
6 program, coordinated through the Oklahoma School Security Institute,
7 a division of the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. HWC
8 Oklahoma efforts shall enhance existing partnerships and
9 collaborations with key partners such as, but not limited to, other
10 state and local first responder agencies, school districts,
11 community coalitions, the State Department of Education, the
12 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the
13 Department of Human Services, and the State Department of Health.
14 The statewide HWC Oklahoma program shall enhance planning, training,
15 implementation, and sustainability in all counties in the state.
16 The program shall give opportunities for local HWC initiatives to
17 receive support from the state as needed.

18 B. The HWC program shall enable a law enforcement officer or
19 employee of a law enforcement agency to notify the program when a
20 child, who may attend a public school or childcare agency in the
21 state, is exposed to a traumatic event, is at the scene with a first
22 responder, or another event occurs that may affect his or her
23 ability to succeed at school including, but not limited to:

24 1. Domestic violence in the presence of the child;

1 2. Death of a member of the family or household of the child;

2 3. Arrest of a parent or guardian of the child affecting the
3 welfare of the child;

4 4. Search warrant is served in the residence of the child;

5 5. Drug or alcohol overdose of a child's family member;

6 6. Violence or mass shootings in the neighborhood where the
7 child resides;

8 7. Forced displacement from the residence;

9 8. House fire;

10 9. Child maltreatment; or

11 10. Child is present at a first responder encounter.

12 C. The HWC program shall work with local communities and key
13 partners to administer a telephone hotline, email, or other
14 appropriate method to allow a law enforcement officer or first
15 responder agency to provide the notification described in subsection
16 B of this section.

17 D. Information submitted to the HWC program in the notification
18 shall comply with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation's
19 dissemination laws and Victim's Bill of Rights. It shall only
20 include, to the extent that it is available:

21 1. The first, middle, and last name of the child;

22 2. The grade and school or childcare agency where the child is
23 enrolled; and

24 3. The date of birth and age of the child.

1 The HWC notification shall not include any details about the
2 traumatic event unless there is an imminent threat to the safety of
3 the child or school safety.

4 E. Upon receiving notification as provided in subsection D of
5 this section, the local HWC multi-disciplinary team (MDT) shall
6 determine if the child attends a public school or childcare agency
7 in this state. If the child attends a public school or childcare
8 agency in the state, the local HWC MDT shall notify designated
9 representatives where the child attends. The notice shall include
10 that "the child referenced has been exposed to a traumatic event in
11 the last twenty-four (24) hours and could exhibit academic,
12 emotional, and behavioral problems because of exposure to a
13 traumatic event. Please handle the child with care."

14 F. 1. The Oklahoma School Security Institute, in coordination
15 with community coalitions and partner state and local first
16 responder agencies, shall provide model protocol and training for
17 the HWC Oklahoma program to first responder agencies and their
18 employees who may respond to a traumatic event involving a child.

19 2. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
20 Services, in coordination with the State Department of Education and
21 community coalitions, shall include model protocol and training for
22 the HWC Oklahoma program in existing efforts which promotes
23 universal trauma-informed practices in school settings.

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1 G. The training required in subsection F of this section shall
2 include, at a minimum:

3 1. The criteria for sending a HWC notice;

4 2. The procedure for notifying the HWC program when a child who
5 may attend a public school or childcare agency is exposed to an
6 event listed in subsection B of this section that may affect his or
7 her ability to succeed at school and the information to include in
8 the notification;

9 3. Proper response to a notification received from the program,
10 including, without limitation, the manner in which to respond to
11 notification through early interventions; and

12 4. Collaboration with teachers and other members of the staff
13 of a school, students, family members of students, multi-
14 disciplinary teams, other persons, and behavioral, social, and
15 health providers, as appropriate, to reduce the negative impact of
16 the traumatic event on the affected student, appropriate
17 interventions that may be available to assist the student, and the
18 overall well-being of the student. Community coalitions shall be
19 engaged to increase coordination of community services.

20 H. The Oklahoma School Security Institute may promulgate rules
21 to implement the provisions of this section with feedback from local
22 first responder agencies, schools, and community coalitions.

23 I. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a law
24 enforcement officer or employee of a law enforcement agency to

1 provide notification pursuant to this section if the disclosure of
2 information may compromise an ongoing investigation.

3 J. In addition to funds appropriated by the legislature
4 pursuant to subsection A of this section, the HWC Oklahoma program
5 shall apply for additional federal, state, local, and private funds
6 to support the HWC Oklahoma program.

7 K. The HWC Oklahoma program shall submit an annual report of
8 the program's progress, outcomes, and impact on students and
9 communities to the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,
10 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and the
11 Governor.

12 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

13 Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of March, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the ___ day of _____, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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