

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1506

By: Hicks

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; amending 43A O.S. 2021, Section 2-101, which relates to the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; modifying appointing authority of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; conforming language; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43A O.S. 2021, Section 2-101, is amended to read as follows:

Section 2-101. A. 1. There is hereby established in this state a Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

2. This Department's governing board shall be the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and its chief executive officer shall be the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The Commissioner shall be appointed by ~~the Governor~~ without the advice and consent of the Senate and shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~Governor~~ Board and may be removed or replaced without cause. Compensation for the Commissioner shall be

1 determined by the Governor. ~~The Commissioner may be removed from~~  
2 ~~office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members elected to and~~  
3 ~~constituting each chamber of the Legislature~~ Board.

4 3. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
5 shall exercise all functions of the state in relation to the  
6 administration and operation of all state facilities for the care  
7 and treatment of the mentally ill and drug- or alcohol-dependent  
8 persons.

9 B. All references in the Oklahoma Statutes to the Department of  
10 Mental Health or the Board of Mental Health shall be construed to  
11 refer to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
12 Services or the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services,  
13 respectively.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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