

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR
5 SENATE BILL NO. 1570

By: Rosino

6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

7 An Act relating to children; creating the Department
8 of Child Safety and Wellbeing; transferring certain
9 powers, duties, and employees from specified
10 agencies; authorizing appointment of interim
11 Commissioner of Child Safety and Wellbeing for
12 specified purpose; directing implementation of
13 certain transition plan; describing plan; providing
14 for transfer of certain administrative rules;
15 abolishing specified entities upon certain condition;
16 establishing the Commissioner of Child Safety and
17 Wellbeing as the chief executive officer of the
18 Department; providing for appointment and removal of
19 the Commissioner; providing powers and duties of the
20 Commissioner; creating the Board of Child Safety and
21 Wellbeing; specifying membership; providing for
22 appointment and removal of members; prohibiting
23 members from voting on specified issues; stipulating
24 membership qualifications; providing for officers,
meetings, and quorum of the Board; directing and
prohibiting certain compensation; providing powers
and duties of the Board; providing for codification;
providing an effective date; and declaring an
emergency.

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 3-1-101 of Title 10A, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. There is hereby created the Department of Child Safety and
2 Wellbeing, which shall consist of the Commissioner of Child Safety
3 and Wellbeing and such divisions, offices, positions, and advisory
4 boards or committees as may be established by the Commissioner or by
5 law.

6 B. All applicable powers and duties of the Child Welfare
7 Services Division of the Department of Human Services shall be fully
8 transferred to the Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing on July
9 1, 2027. All employees of the Child Welfare Services Division of
10 the Department of Human Services shall be transferred to the
11 Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing.

12 C. All applicable powers and duties of the Office of Juvenile
13 Affairs shall be fully transferred to the Department of Child Safety
14 and Wellbeing on July 1, 2027. All employees of the Office of
15 Juvenile Affairs shall be transferred to the Department of Child
16 Safety and Wellbeing.

17 D. The Governor may appoint an interim Commissioner of Child
18 Safety and Wellbeing to carry out the transition plan described in
19 subsection E of this section until the Board of Child Safety and
20 Wellbeing created under Section 3 of this act convenes and appoints
21 a permanent Commissioner.

22 E. The Commissioner of Child Safety and Wellbeing, the Director
23 of Human Services, and the Executive Director of the Office of
24 Juvenile Affairs shall develop and implement a plan for the orderly

1 establishment of the Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing and
2 its transition from the Department of Human Services and the Office
3 of Juvenile Affairs. The plan shall:

4 1. Provide for the transfer of:

5 a. all equipment, supplies, records, furnishings or other
6 materials, resources, or funds dedicated to the
7 operation of the Child Welfare Services Division of
8 the Department of Human Services, and

9 b. all property, equipment, supplies, records,
10 furnishings, materials, resources, and funds of the
11 Office of Juvenile Affairs;

12 2. Determine the allocation of resources between the newly
13 created Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing and the Department
14 of Human Services;

15 3. Determine the allocation of functions where the performance
16 of services may be shared between the Department of Child Safety and
17 Wellbeing and the Department of Human Services, as practicable;

18 4. Determine whether any administrative support services or
19 office space can continue to be provided by the Department of Human
20 Services; and

21 5. Identify other areas deemed relevant by the Commissioner and
22 make recommendations to achieve an orderly transition.

23 F. On September 1, 2026, the administrative rules related to
24 any programs or services provided by the Department of Child Safety

1 and Wellbeing previously promulgated by the Director of Human
2 Services or the Board of Juvenile Affairs shall be transferred to
3 and become a part of the administrative rules of the Department of
4 Child Safety and Wellbeing. The Office of Administrative Rules in
5 the Office of the Secretary of State shall provide adequate notice
6 in "The Oklahoma Register" of the transferred rules and shall place
7 the transferred rules under the Oklahoma Administrative Code section
8 of the Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing. Beginning
9 September 1, 2026, any amendment, repeal, or addition to the
10 transferred rules shall be under the rulemaking authority of the
11 Board of Child Safety and Wellbeing.

12 G. Upon completion of the transfers described in this section,
13 the Child Welfare Services Division of the Department of Human
14 Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, and the Board of Juvenile
15 Affairs shall be abolished.

16 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-1-201 of Title 10A, unless
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. The chief executive officer of the Department of Child
20 Safety and Wellbeing shall be the Commissioner of Child Safety and
21 Wellbeing, who shall act for the Department in all matters except as
22 may be otherwise provided by law.

23 B. The Commissioner shall be appointed by and shall serve at
24 the pleasure of the Board of Child Safety and Wellbeing established

1 under Section 3 of this act and may be removed or replaced without
2 cause.

3 C. The Commissioner shall have the power and duty to:

4 1. Administer the programs and services of the Department of
5 Child Safety and Wellbeing;

6 2. Establish internal policies and procedures of the Department
7 and recommend rules to the Board;

8 3. Employ, discharge, appoint, contract, and fix duties and
9 compensation of employees of the Department at the discretion of the
10 Commissioner;

11 4. Establish within the Department such divisions, offices,
12 positions, and advisory boards or committees as the Commissioner
13 deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Department;

14 5. Create the budget request for the Department to be approved
15 by the Board and submitted to the Legislature each year; and

16 6. Accept, use, and administer grants, allotments, funds,
17 appropriations, gifts, devises, bequests, and other property made or
18 offered to the Department.

19 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-1-301 of Title 10A, unless
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. There is hereby created the Board of Child Safety and
23 Wellbeing, which shall be the governing board of the Department of
24 Child Safety and Wellbeing established under Section 1 of this act.

1 The Board shall consist of the following nine (9) members, whose
2 initial appointments shall be made not later than September 1, 2026:

3 1. Five members appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom
4 shall meet the description of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this
5 section and at least one of whom shall have experience in executive
6 leadership or financial management of a large-scale business
7 enterprise;

8 2. Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
9 Senate, at least one of whom shall meet the description of paragraph
10 1 of subsection C of this section; and

11 3. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives, at least one of whom shall meet the description of
13 paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section.

14 The Commissioner of Child Safety and Wellbeing shall be an ex
15 officio member of the Board, but may vote only in case of a tie
16 vote.

17 B. 1. Each member of the Board shall serve at the pleasure of
18 his or her appointing authority and may be removed or replaced
19 without cause.

20 2. A member shall not vote on any issue in which the member has
21 a direct financial interest.

22 C. 1. Members of the Board shall include persons with
23 experience in social work, child welfare, children's behavioral
24 health, juvenile justice, criminal justice, community-based youth

1 services, criminal-justice-related behavioral sciences, indigent
2 defense, or education.

3 2. To be eligible for appointment to the Board, a person shall:

4 a. be a citizen of the United States,

5 b. be a resident and qualified elector of this state, and

6 c. not have been convicted of a felony pursuant to the
7 laws of this state, the laws of any other state, or
8 the laws of the United States.

9 D. 1. The Board shall elect a chair and vice chair from among
10 its members.

11 2. The Board shall hold meetings as necessary at a place and
12 time to be fixed by the Board. Special meetings may be called by
13 the chair or by five members of the Board by delivery of written
14 notice to each member of the Board.

15 3. A majority of members serving on the Board shall constitute
16 a quorum of the Board.

17 4. Members of the Board shall receive necessary travel expenses
18 according to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act,
19 but shall receive no other compensation. Travel expenses shall be
20 paid from funds available to the Department.

21 E. The Board shall have the power and duty to:

22 1. Appoint and fix the compensation of the Commissioner of
23 Child Safety and Wellbeing in accordance with Section 3601.2 of
24 Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 2. Promulgate rules as necessary to carry out the duties of the
2 Department;

3 3. Supervise the activities of the Department and assist the
4 Department in conducting periodic reviews and planning activities
5 related to the goals, objectives, priorities, and policies of the
6 Department;

7 4. Review and approve the annual budget request of the
8 Department; and

9 5. Establish contracting procedures for the Department and
10 approve rates of payment for services provided by contract.

11 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

12 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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