

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2647

By: Harris and Adams of the
House

and

Thompson of the Senate

An Act relating to children; creating the Shai Cooper Act; updating references to internal citations; expanding circumstances that allow for the waiver of home studies; updating scope of findings issued by the court; providing an exception for certain finding; defining term; providing for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Children

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

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

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Shai Cooper Act".

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 7505-5.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 7505-5.2. A. If a preplacement home study is not waived by the court for good cause shown or is not required by Section ~~29~~ 7505-5.1 of this ~~act~~ title, the court, upon the filing of a petition for adoption, shall order that a home study be made and filed with the court by the designated investigator within the time fixed by the court, and in no event more than sixty (60) days from the issuance of the order for the home study, unless the time therefor is extended by the court.

B. If the child to be adopted is the biological or adopted child ~~of either~~ or immediate relative of the petitioners or of the spouse of the petitioner, then the court, upon the submission of an application, by order may waive the requirement in subsection A of this section that a home study report be made, and the requirement for a supplemental report set forth in subsection C of Section ~~31~~ 7505-5.3 of this ~~act~~ title, if the court makes the following findings:

1. That waiver of the home study requirement is in the best interest of the child;

2. ~~That~~ If applicable, that the parent of the child and the stepparent of the child, or the immediate relative of the child and the spouse of the immediate relative who are petitioning for adoption have been married for at least one (1) year with the child who is to be adopted living in their home; provided, however, that this provision shall not be construed as a prohibition against a single, immediate relative from requesting waiver of a house study; and

3. That the stepparent or immediate relative or spouse of the immediate relative who is petitioning for adoption has no record of conviction of a felony or conviction or adjudication in juvenile court for child abuse or neglect or domestic violence, and there is no record of a protective order or orders issued against the stepparent or immediate relative or spouse of the immediate relative.

In all other adoptions, including foster, ~~relative,~~ and ~~stepparent~~ adoptions, a home study and report shall be made pursuant to this section or Section ~~29~~ 7505-5.1 of this ~~act~~ title.

C. For purposes of this section, immediate relative shall mean the brother, sister, grandparent, aunt, or uncle of the child.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

Passed the House of Representatives the 12th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 1st day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____