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February 23, 2026

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 1570

By: Rosino

[children - Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing
- transition plan - administrative rules - chief
executive officer - appointment and removal - powers
and duties - Board of Child Safety and Wellbeing -
membership - compensation - codification - effective
date -

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:

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

B. All applicable powers and duties of the Child Welfare Services Division of the Department of Human Services shall be fully transferred to the Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing on July

1, 2027. All employees of the Child Welfare Services Division of the Department of Human Services shall be transferred to the Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing.

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

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

E. The Commissioner of Child Safety and Wellbeing, the Director of Human Services, and the Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs shall develop and implement a plan for the orderly establishment of the Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing and its transition from the Department of Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Affairs. The plan shall:

1. Provide for the transfer of:

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

1 b. all property, equipment, supplies, records,
2 furnishings, materials, resources, and funds of the
3 Office of Juvenile Affairs;

4 2. Determine the allocation of resources between the newly
5 created Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing and the Department
6 of Human Services;

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

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

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

15 F. On September 1, 2026, the administrative rules related to
16 any programs or services provided by the Department of Child Safety
17 and Wellbeing previously promulgated by the Director of Human
18 Services or the Board of Juvenile Affairs shall be transferred to
19 and become a part of the administrative rules of the Department of
20 Child Safety and Wellbeing. The Office of Administrative Rules in
21 the Office of the Secretary of State shall provide adequate notice
22 in "The Oklahoma Register" of the transferred rules and shall place
23 the transferred rules under the Oklahoma Administrative Code section
24 of the Department of Child Safety and Wellbeing. Beginning

1 September 1, 2026, any amendment, repeal, or addition to the
2 transferred rules shall be under the rulemaking authority of the
3 Board of Child Safety and Wellbeing.

4 G. Upon completion of the transfers described in this section,
5 the Child Welfare Services Division of the Department of Human
6 Services, the Office of Juvenile Affairs, and the Board of Juvenile
7 Affairs shall be abolished.

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

11 A. The chief executive officer of the Department of Child
12 Safety and Wellbeing shall be the Commissioner of Child Safety and
13 Wellbeing, who shall act for the Department in all matters except as
14 may be otherwise provided by law.

15 B. The Commissioner shall be appointed by and shall serve at
16 the pleasure of the Board of Child Safety and Wellbeing established
17 under Section 3 of this act and may be removed or replaced without
18 cause.

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

20 1. Administer the programs and services of the Department of
21 Child Safety and Wellbeing;

22 2. Establish internal policies and procedures of the Department
23 and recommend rules to the Board;

24

1 3. Employ, discharge, appoint, contract, and fix duties and
2 compensation of employees of the Department at the discretion of the
3 Commissioner;

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

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

9 6. Accept, use, and administer grants, allotments, funds,
10 appropriations, gifts, devises, bequests, and other property made or
11 offered to the Department.

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

15 A. There is hereby created the Board of Child Safety and
16 Wellbeing, which shall be the governing board of the Department of
17 Child Safety and Wellbeing established under Section 1 of this act.
18 The Board shall consist of the following nine (9) members, whose
19 initial appointments shall be made not later than September 1, 2026:

20 1. Five members appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom
21 shall meet the description of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this
22 section and at least one of whom shall have experience in executive
23 leadership or financial management of a large-scale business
24 enterprise;

1 2. Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
2 Senate, at least one of whom shall meet the description of paragraph
3 1 of subsection C of this section; and

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

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

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

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

15 C. 1. Members of the Board shall include persons with
16 experience in social work, child welfare, children's behavioral
17 health, juvenile justice, criminal justice, community-based youth
18 services, criminal-justice-related behavioral sciences, indigent
19 defense, or education.

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

21 a. be a citizen of the United States,

22 b. be a resident and qualified elector of this state, and
23
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1 c. not have been convicted of a felony pursuant to the
2 laws of this state, the laws of any other state, or
3 the laws of the United States.

4 D. 1. The Board shall elect a chair and vice chair from among
5 its members.

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

10 3. A majority of members serving on the Board shall constitute
11 a quorum of the Board.

12 4. Members of the Board shall receive necessary travel expenses
13 according to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act,
14 but shall receive no other compensation. Travel expenses shall be
15 paid from funds available to the Department.

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

17 1. Appoint and fix the compensation of the Commissioner of
18 Child Safety and Wellbeing in accordance with Section 3601.2 of
19 Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

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

22 3. Supervise the activities of the Department and assist the
23 Department in conducting periodic reviews and planning activities
24

1 related to the goals, objectives, priorities, and policies of the
2 Department;

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

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

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

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

12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
13 February 23, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS
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