

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 803

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to parental rights; creating the Parental Rights Protection Act; providing short title; stating purpose of act; establishing certain rights; providing certain penalties and immunities; establishing the Parental Rights Review Board for certain purpose; describing membership; specifying duties; providing for noncodification; 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 not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Parental Rights Protection Act".

B. The purpose of this act is to ensure that the rights of parents, as outlined in the Parents' Bill of Rights, are fully protected and to establish clear consequences for any violation of those rights by state agencies, officials, or individuals acting in an official capacity.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2010 of Title 25, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 The Parents' Bill of Rights is hereby amended to include the
2 following provisions:

3 1. Right to Due Process: Parents have the right to be notified
4 in writing of any allegations or concerns regarding their parental
5 rights or the welfare of their child, with clear details of the
6 allegations, evidence, and specific actions required of the parent
7 to resolve the issues;

8 2. Right to Family Reunification: Parents shall have the right
9 to a fair and unbiased process for reunification with their child,
10 including a clearly defined and transparent timeline for
11 reunification, unless there is clear and convincing evidence of
12 immediate harm to the child. The Department of Human Services or
13 any state agency shall make all reasonable efforts to place children
14 with relatives or family members before placing them in foster care;

15 3. Right to Appeal: Parents have the right to appeal any
16 decisions related to the removal of their child or any actions that
17 limit their parental rights. Appeals shall be handled in a timely
18 manner and in accordance with due process;

19 4. Right to Access to Evidence: Parents have the right to
20 access all evidence, records, and reports used to make decisions
21 affecting their parental rights, including access to child welfare
22 records, medical reports, and other relevant documentation. The
23 Department of Human Services or any state agency shall not withhold
24 or redact evidence unless specifically authorized by law; and

1 5. Right to Fair Investigation: Investigations regarding
2 allegations of child abuse or neglect shall be conducted fairly,
3 transparently, and in the best interest of the child, with all
4 parties (including both parents, guardians, and relevant
5 professionals) having the opportunity to present evidence,
6 testimonies, and challenge accusations.

7 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2011 of Title 25, unless there
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 A. Any state agency or official including, but not limited to,
11 employees of the Department of Human Services, law enforcement, or
12 judicial officers found to have willfully violated the rights of
13 parents as enumerated in the Parents' Bill of Rights, shall be
14 subject to the following consequences:

15 1. Monetary penalties: The violating agency or official shall
16 be subject to fines, with amounts determined based on the severity
17 of the violation, to be paid into a fund for the support and
18 reintegration of affected families;

19 2. Civil liability: The agency or official may be held liable
20 for damages caused to the affected parent or family, including
21 emotional distress, financial losses, and attorney's fees. Parents
22 may file a civil lawsuit to seek redress for violations;

23 3. Suspension or removal from office: State officials who are
24 found to have knowingly violated the rights of parents or engaged in
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1 misconduct, including fraudulent reporting, failure to provide due
2 process, or retaliatory actions, may be subject to suspension or
3 removal from office, in accordance with applicable state laws and
4 procedures; or

5 4. Mandatory training and re-education: Any state employee
6 found to have violated the Parents' Bill of Rights shall be required
7 to complete mandatory training on parental rights, due process, and
8 ethical conduct, before returning to their duties.

9 B. Judges or court officials who violate the rights of parents
10 by failing to follow due process or by making rulings without
11 sufficient evidence shall be subject to disciplinary action by the
12 Council on Judicial Complaints. This may include suspension,
13 removal, or other penalties as determined by the Council.

14 C. Any employee or official within a state agency who reports
15 violations of the Parents' Bill of Rights, in good faith, shall be
16 protected from retaliation. Retaliatory actions, including
17 demotion, dismissal, or harassment, shall be subject to disciplinary
18 action.

19 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2012 of Title 25, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A Parental Rights Review Board shall be established to monitor
23 compliance with the Parents' Bill of Rights. The Board shall
24 consist of members appointed by the Governor to include legal

1 experts, social workers, family advocates, and other relevant
2 stakeholders, and shall:

- 3 1. Review complaints submitted by parents and families
4 regarding violations of their rights;
- 5 2. Investigate claims of violations by state agencies or
6 officials;
- 7 3. Recommend actions, including disciplinary measures,
8 penalties, and reforms to improve the protection of parental rights;
9 and
- 10 4. Electronically submit an annual report to the Governor,
11 Legislature, and the public on the status of parental rights
12 protections in Oklahoma.

13 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

14 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
15 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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