

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 HOUSE BILL 1394

By: Downing

4
5
6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to criminal procedure; amending 22
9 O.S. 2011, Section 1601, as amended by Section 1,
10 Chapter 309, O.S.L. 2013 (22 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section
11 1601), which relates to the Domestic Violence
12 Fatality Review Board; eliminating sunset termination
13 date; and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2011, Section 1601, as
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 309, O.S.L. 2013 (22 O.S. Supp. 2016,
17 Section 1601), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1601. A. There is hereby created ~~until July 1, 2017,~~
19 ~~in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law,~~ the Domestic Violence
20 Fatality Review Board within the Office of the Attorney General.
21 The Board shall have the power and duty to:

22 1. Coordinate and integrate state and local efforts to address
23 fatal domestic violence and create a body of information to prevent
24 domestic violence deaths;

1 2. Collect, analyze and interpret state and local data on
2 domestic violence deaths;

3 3. Develop a state and local database on domestic violence
4 deaths;

5 4. Improve the ability to provide protective services to
6 victims of domestic violence who may be living in a dangerous
7 environment;

8 5. Improve policies, procedures and practices within the
9 agencies that serve victims of domestic violence; and

10 6. Enter into agreements with other state, local or private
11 entities as necessary to carry out the duties of the Domestic
12 Violence Fatality Review Board including, but not limited to,
13 conducting joint reviews with the Child Death Review Board on
14 domestic violence cases involving child death or child near-death
15 incidents.

16 B. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the Board
17 shall:

18 1. Promulgate rules establishing criteria for identifying cases
19 involving a domestic violence death subject to specific, in-depth
20 review by the Board;

21 2. Conduct a specific case review of those cases where the
22 cause of death is or may be related to domestic violence;

23

24

1 3. Establish and maintain statistical information related to
2 domestic violence deaths, including, but not limited to, demographic
3 and medical diagnostic information;

4 4. Establish procedures for obtaining initial information
5 regarding domestic violence deaths from law enforcement agencies;

6 5. Review the policies, practices, and procedures of the
7 domestic violence protection and prevention system and make specific
8 recommendations to the entities comprising the domestic violence
9 prevention and protection system for actions necessary for the
10 improvement of the system;

11 6. Review the extent to which the state domestic violence
12 prevention and protection system is coordinated with law enforcement
13 and the court system and evaluate whether the state is efficiently
14 discharging its domestic violence prevention and protection
15 responsibilities;

16 7. Request and obtain a copy of all records and reports
17 pertaining to a domestic violence death case of the victim,
18 perpetrator or any other person cohabitating in the domicile at the
19 time of the fatality that is under review, including, but not
20 limited to:

- 21 a. the report of the medical examiner,
- 22 b. hospital records,
- 23 c. school records,
- 24 d. court records,

- 1 e. prosecutorial records,
- 2 f. local, state, and federal law enforcement records,
- 3 including, but not limited to, the Oklahoma State
- 4 Bureau of Investigation (OSBI),
- 5 g. fire department records,
- 6 h. State Department of Health records, including birth
- 7 certificate records,
- 8 i. medical and dental records,
- 9 j. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- 10 Services and other mental health records,
- 11 k. emergency medical service records,
- 12 l. files of the Department of Human Services, and
- 13 m. records in the possession of the Child Death Review
- 14 Board when conducting a joint review pursuant to
- 15 paragraph 6 of subsection A of this section.

16 Confidential information provided to the Board shall be maintained
17 by the Board in a confidential manner as otherwise required by state
18 and federal law. Any person damaged by disclosure of such
19 confidential information by the Board or its members which is not
20 authorized by law may maintain an action for damages, costs and
21 attorney fees pursuant to The Oklahoma Governmental Tort Claims Act;

22 8. Maintain all confidential information, documents and records
23 in possession of the Board as confidential and not subject to
24 subpoena or discovery in any civil or criminal proceedings;

1 provided, however, information, documents and records otherwise
2 available from other sources shall not be exempt from subpoena or
3 discovery through those sources solely because such information,
4 documents and records were presented to or reviewed by the Board;

5 9. Conduct reviews of specific cases of domestic violence
6 deaths and request the preparation of additional information and
7 reports as determined to be necessary by the Board including, but
8 not limited to, clinical summaries from treating physicians,
9 chronologies of contact, and second opinion autopsies;

10 10. Report, if recommended by a majority vote of the Board, to
11 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
12 of Representatives any gross neglect of duty by any state officer or
13 state employee, or any problem within the domestic violence
14 prevention and protection system discovered by the Board while
15 performing its duties; and

16 11. Exercise all incidental powers necessary and proper for the
17 implementation and administration of the Domestic Violence Fatality
18 Review Board.

19 C. The review and discussion of individual cases of a domestic
20 violence death shall be conducted in executive session. All other
21 business shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the
22 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. All discussions of individual cases and
23 any writings produced by or created for the Board in the course of
24 determining a remedial measure to be recommended by the Board, as

1 the result of a review of an individual case of a domestic violence
2 death, shall be privileged and shall not be admissible in evidence
3 in any proceeding. The Board shall periodically conduct meetings to
4 discuss organization and business matters and any actions or
5 recommendations aimed at improvement of the domestic violence
6 prevention and protection system which shall be subject to the
7 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Part of any meeting of the Board may be
8 specifically designated as a business meeting of the Board subject
9 to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

10 D. The Board shall submit an annual statistical report on the
11 incidence and causes of domestic violence deaths in this state for
12 which the Board has completed its review during the past calendar
13 year including its recommendations, if any, to the domestic violence
14 prevention and protection system. The Board shall also prepare and
15 make available to the public, on an annual basis, a report
16 containing a summary of the activities of the Board relating to the
17 review of domestic violence deaths, the extent to which the state
18 domestic violence prevention and protection system is coordinated
19 and an evaluation of whether the state is efficiently discharging
20 its domestic violence prevention and protection responsibilities.
21 The report shall be completed no later than February 1 of the
22 subsequent year.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.
24

1 56-1-5431 LRB 12/12/16

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24