

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 HOUSE BILL 1967

By: Branham

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children; creating the Families
8 Actively Made for Independent-Living-Aged Youth
9 (FAMILY) Act; prohibiting Department of Human
10 Services from placing certain restrictions on child-
11 placing agency; providing exception for contractual
12 prohibition; mandating same reimbursement rate for
13 child-placing agency as other families receive;
14 listing conditions for placing nontherapeutic child
15 in therapeutic foster home; authorizing reimbursement
16 based on therapeutic foster rate; requiring specified
17 checks for certain prospective foster family homes;
18 providing exception for additional documentation;
19 directing Department to promulgate rules; providing
20 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-7-117 of Title 10A, unless
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Families
Actively Made for Independent-Living-Aged Youth (FAMILY) Act".

B. The Department of Human Services shall not prohibit private
child-placing agencies from recruiting, certifying or providing

1 services for foster family homes unless the contract with the
2 private child-placing agency explicitly prohibits these activities.

3 C. Any private child-placing agency that provides services for
4 foster family homes in compliance with the contract between the
5 private child-placing agency and the Department shall be eligible to
6 receive the same reimbursement rate as other families in accordance
7 with the contract.

8 D. 1. Therapeutic foster family homes that are approved by the
9 Department and have available space shall not be prohibited from the
10 placement of a child who is not eligible or considered for
11 therapeutic foster care if:

- 12 a. the child is a sibling of a child currently in their
13 care, or
- 14 b. at least one teenager is in their care.

15 2. Any family caring for both therapeutic and nontherapeutic
16 foster children may be reimbursed for each child in the home at the
17 same rate as if all the children in the home were in therapeutic
18 foster care.

19 E. Prospective foster family homes completing requirements
20 established by the Department for approval or certification by a
21 child-placing agency shall only be required to complete a child
22 welfare check, a national criminal history records search based upon
23 submission of fingerprints, military background check and child
24 abuse registry check unless other documentation that is not deemed

1 redundant by the Department would provide necessary and relevant
2 information about the prospective foster family home.

3 F. The Department may promulgate rules necessary to implement
4 the provisions of this act.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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7 57-1-7234 EK 01/09/19

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