

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 1980

By: Lepak

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to courts; providing the intent of
8 the Legislature to promote transparency in the
9 Judicial Nominating Commission's selection process;
10 requiring the Judicial Nominating Commission to
11 promulgate certain rules; providing for codification;
12 providing for noncodification; and providing an
13 effective date.

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

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

17 A. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Legislature
18 that the Judicial Nominating Commission promulgate rules to promote
19 the transparency of the Judicial Nominating Commission's selection
20 process. It is the public policy of the State of Oklahoma that the
21 people are vested with the inherent right to know and be fully
22 informed about their government. In accordance with this public
23 policy, the Legislature finds that the people have a vested interest
24 in the selection process of justices and judges nominated to
judicial office and should be informed of the Judicial Nominating

1 Commission's selection process for each candidate nominated for
2 judicial office.

3 B. It is not the intention of the Legislature that any negative,
4 private, embarrassing or otherwise sensitive information be
5 disclosed by the Judicial Nominating Commission's efforts to
6 increase transparency of the selection process. Specifically, the
7 Legislature does not intend for the background check conducted by
8 the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to be made public.

9 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in
10 the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 25 of Title 20, unless there is
11 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 The Judicial Nominating Commission shall promulgate rules to
13 promote transparency of the selection process of nominees for
14 judicial office. The rules shall be prominently published on the
15 Judicial Nominating Commission's website. The rules shall include,
16 but are not limited to, publishing the results of a vote by the
17 commissioners for a candidate, including any runoff votes, by
18 displaying the total votes by the commissioners for the candidate on
19 the Judicial Nominating Commission's website to be available for at
20 least one (1) year.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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