

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1980

By: Lepak of the House

and

Daniels and Bullard of the
Senate

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

SUBJECT: Courts

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

B. It is not the intention of the Legislature that any negative, private, embarrassing or otherwise sensitive information be disclosed by the Judicial Nominating Commission's efforts to

increase transparency of the selection process. Specifically, the Legislature does not intend for the background check conducted by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to be made public.

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

The Judicial Nominating Commission shall promulgate rules to promote transparency of the selection process of nominees for judicial office. The rules shall be prominently published on the Judicial Nominating Commission's website.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 14th day of April, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____