1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)
3	HOUSE BILL 2463 By: Dunnington
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6	AS INTRODUCED
7	An Act relating to labor; creating the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act; stating legislative
8	findings; defining terms; providing for earned paid sick time for employees; providing for carryover to
9	following year; designating usage of sick leave; providing for notice of sick leave use; prohibiting
10	search for replacement worker; providing for types of documentation for usage of sick leave; prohibiting
11	employer from requesting certain information; prohibiting interference with rights protected under
12	this act; prohibiting retaliatory actions; requiring certain notice by employer; providing for language
13	and display of notice; authorizing Department of Labor to create certain notice and posters; providing
14	penalty; requiring employers to keep certain records for certain time; authorizing Department to
15	promulgate rules; authorizing Department to investigate and enforce provisions of this act;
16	providing for powers and duties of the Department; providing for relief and penalties; requiring annual
17	report be posted on website; prohibiting disclosure of certain details; providing for exceptions;
18	requiring Department to develop outreach program; providing for codification; and providing an
19	effective date.
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22	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
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SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 901 of Title 40, unless there is
 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Healthy5 Families and Workplaces Act".

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B. The Legislature finds that:

7 1. Most workers in Oklahoma will at some time during the year 8 need limited time off from work to take care of their own health 9 needs or the health needs of their family members; and

Nationally, nearly forty percent (40%) of private sector
 workers do not have any paid sick time. In addition, many workers
 who do have paid sick time are disciplined for using it or not
 allowed to use the time to care for sick children.

14 C. The purposes of this act are to:

Ensure that all workers in Oklahoma can address their own
 health and safety needs and the health and safety needs of their
 families by requiring employers to provide a minimum level of earned
 paid sick time, including time to care for their family members;

19 2. Diminish public and private health care costs and promote 20 preventive health services in Oklahoma by enabling workers to seek 21 early and routine medical care for themselves and their family 22 members;

23 3. Protect the public's health in Oklahoma by reducing the risk
24 of contagion;

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4. Promote the economic security and stability of workers and
 their families;

5. Protect employees in Oklahoma from losing their jobs or
facing workplace discipline when they use the paid sick time they
earn to care for themselves or their families;

6 6. Assist victims of domestic violence and their family members
7 by providing them job-protected time away from work to receive
8 treatment and to take the necessary steps to ensure their safety;

9 7. Safeguard the public welfare, health, safety and prosperity10 of the people of Oklahoma; and

8. Accomplish the purposes described in paragraphs 1 through 7
of this subsection in a manner that is feasible for employers.
SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 902 of Title 40, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 For purposes of the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act:

17 1. "Department" means the Department of Labor;

18 2. "Domestic violence" shall have the same meaning as domestic
19 abuse used in Section 60.1 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

3. "Earned paid sick time" means time that is compensated at the same hourly rate and with the same benefits, including health care benefits, as the employee normally earns during hours worked and is provided by an employer to an employee for the purposes described in Section 4 of this act, but in no case shall this hourly

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1 amount be less than that provided under 29 U.S.C., Section 206(a)(1) 2 or Section 197.2 of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes; 3 4. "Employee" shall have the same meaning as used in Section 197.4 of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes. "Employee" includes 4 5 recipients of public benefits who are engaged in work activity as a 6 condition of receiving public assistance; 7 5. "Employer" shall have the same meaning as used in Section 197.4 of Title 40 of the Oklahoma Statutes. "Employer" shall not 8 9 include any of the following: 10 a. the United States government, 11 b. the State of Oklahoma including any office, 12 department, agency, authority, institution, 13 association, commission or other body of the state, 14 including the Legislature and the judiciary, or 15 с. any county, municipal or other local government; 16 "Family member" means: 6. 17 regardless of age, a biological, adopted or foster a. 18 child, stepchild or legal ward or a child of a 19 domestic partner of the employee, a child to whom the 20 employee stands in loco parentis or an individual to 21 whom the employee stood in loco parentis when the 22 individual was a minor, 23 b. a biological, foster, stepparent or adoptive parent or 24 legal guardian of an employee or an employee's spouse

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- 1 or domestic partner or a person who stood in loco 2 parentis when the employee or employee's spouse or 3 domestic partner was a minor child,
- 4 c. a person to whom the employee is legally married under
 5 the laws of any state or a domestic partner of an
 6 employee as registered under the laws of any state or
 7 political subdivision,
- a grandparent, grandchild or sibling, whether of a
 biological, foster, adoptive or step relationship, of
 the employee or the employee's spouse or domestic
 partner,
- e. a person for whom the employee is responsible for providing or arranging care, including but not limited to helping that person obtain diagnostic, preventive, routine or therapeutic health treatment, or
- 16 f. any other person related by blood or affinity whose 17 close association with the employee is the equivalent 18 of a family relationship;

19 7. "Harassment" shall have the same meaning as used in Section
20 60.1 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

8. "Health care professional" means any person licensed under federal or state law to provide medical or emergency services, including but not limited to doctors, nurses and emergency room personnel;

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9. "Retaliatory personnel action" means denial of any right 1 2 guaranteed under this act and any threat, discharge, suspension, demotion, reduction of hours, reporting or threatening to report an 3 4 employee's suspected citizenship or immigration status, or the 5 suspected citizenship or immigration status of a family member of the employee to a federal, state or local agency, or any other 6 7 adverse action against an employee for the exercise of any right 8 guaranteed herein including any sanctions against an employee who is 9 the recipient of public benefits for rights guaranteed under this 10 act. Retaliation shall also include interference with or punishment 11 for in any manner participating in or assisting an investigation, 12 proceeding or hearing under this act;

13 10. "Sexual assault" shall have the same meaning as used in
14 Section 142.20 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

15 11. "Stalking" shall have the same meaning as used in Section16 60.1 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

17 12. "Year" means a regular and consecutive twelve-month period 18 as determined by the employer, provided, that for the purposes of 19 Sections 7 and 9 of this act, "year" shall mean a calendar year.

20 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 903 of Title 40, unless there is 22 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. All employees shall accrue a minimum of one (1) hour of
earned paid sick time for every forty (40) hours worked. Employees

shall not use more than eighty (80) hours of earned paid sick time
 in a year, unless the employer selects a higher limit.

B. Employees who are exempt from overtime requirements under 29
U.S.C., Section 213(a)(1) of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act
shall be assumed to work forty (40) hours in each workweek for
purposes of earned paid sick time accrual unless their normal
workweek is less than forty (40) hours, in which case earned paid
sick time accrues based upon that normal workweek.

9 C. Earned paid sick time as provided in this section shall 10 begin to accrue at the commencement of employment or on November 1, 11 2019, whichever is later. An employer may provide all paid sick 12 time that an employee is expected to accrue in a year at the 13 beginning of the year.

D. Employees shall not be entitled to use accrued earned paid sick time until the ninety-first calendar day following commencement of their employment unless otherwise permitted by the employer. On and after the ninety-first calendar day of employment, employees may use earned paid sick time as it is accrued.

E. Earned paid sick time shall be carried over to the following year. Alternatively, in lieu of carryover of unused earned paid sick time from one year to the next, an employer may pay an employee for unused earned paid sick time at the end of a year and provide the employee with an amount of paid sick time that meets or exceeds

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1 the requirements of this act that is available for the employee's 2 immediate use at the beginning of the subsequent year.

F. Any employer with a paid leave policy, such as a paid timeoff policy, who makes available an amount of paid leave sufficient to meet the accrual requirements of this section that may be used for the same purposes and under the same conditions as earned paid sick time under this act is not required to provide additional paid sick time.

9 G. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring 10 financial or other reimbursement to an employee from an employer 11 upon the employee's termination, resignation, retirement or other 12 separation from employment for accrued earned paid sick time that 13 has not been used.

14 If an employee is transferred to a separate division, entity Η. 15 or location, but remains employed by the same employer, the employee 16 is entitled to all earned paid sick time accrued at the prior 17 division, entity or location and is entitled to use all earned paid 18 sick time as provided in this section. When there is a separation 19 from employment and the employee is rehired within one hundred 20 eighty (180) days of separation by the same employer, previously 21 accrued earned paid sick time that had not been used shall be 22 reinstated. Further, the employee shall be entitled to use accrued 23 earned paid sick time and accrue additional earned paid sick time at 24 the recommencement of employment.

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I. When a different employer succeeds or takes the place of an existing employer, all employees of the original employer who remain employed by the successor employer are entitled to all earned paid sick time they accrued when employed by the original employer and are entitled to use earned paid sick time previously accrued.

J. An employer may loan earned paid sick time to an employee inadvance of accrual by such employee.

8 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 904 of Title 40, unless there is 10 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Earned paid sick time shall be provided to an employee by anemployer for:

An employee's mental or physical illness, injury or health
 condition; an employee's need for medical diagnosis, care or
 treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health
 condition; and an employee's need for preventive medical care;

17 2. Care of a family member with a mental or physical illness, 18 injury or health condition; care of a family member who needs 19 medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a mental or physical 20 illness, injury or health condition; care of a family member who 21 needs preventive medical care; or, in the case of a child, to attend 22 a school meeting or a meeting at a place where the child is 23 receiving care necessitated by the child's health condition or

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1 disability, domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment or 2 stalking;

3. Closure of the employee's place of business by order of a 3 4 public official due to a public health emergency or an employee's 5 need to care for a child whose school or place of care has been closed by order of a public official due to a public health 6 7 emergency or care for oneself or a family member when it has been determined by the health authorities having jurisdiction or by a 8 9 health care provider that the employee's or family member's presence 10 in the community may jeopardize the health of others because of his 11 or her exposure to a communicable disease, whether or not the 12 employee or family member has actually contracted the communicable 13 disease; or

4. Absence necessary due to domestic violence, sexual assault,
harassment or stalking, provided the leave is to allow the employee
to obtain for the employee or the employee's family member:

17 medical attention needed to recover from physical or a. 18 psychological injury or disability caused by domestic 19 violence, sexual assault, harassment or stalking, 20 b. services from a victim services organization, 21 psychological or other counseling, с. 22 d. relocation or taking steps to secure an existing home 23 due to the domestic violence, sexual assault, 24 harassment or stalking, or

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1 legal services, including preparing for or e. 2 participating in any civil or criminal legal proceeding related to or resulting from the domestic 3 4 violence, sexual assault, harassment or stalking. 5 Β. Earned paid sick time shall be provided upon the request of an employee. Such request may be made orally, in writing, by 6 7 electronic means or by any other means acceptable to the employer. When possible, the request shall include the expected duration of 8

9 the absence.

C. When the use of earned paid sick time is foreseeable, the employee shall make a good-faith effort to provide notice of the need for such time to the employer in advance of the use of the earned paid sick time and shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the use of earned paid sick time in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

D. An employer that requires notice of the need to use earned paid sick time where the need is not foreseeable shall provide a written policy that contains procedures for the employee to provide notice. An employer that has not provided to the employee a copy of its written policy for providing such notice shall not deny earned paid sick time to the employee based on noncompliance with such a policy.

E. An employer may not require, as a condition of an employee'staking earned paid sick time, that the employee search for or find a

replacement worker to cover the hours during which the employee is
 using earned paid sick time.

F. Earned paid sick time may be used in the smaller of hourly increments or the smallest increment that the employer's payroll system uses to account for absences or use of other time.

6 G. For earned paid sick time of three (3) or more consecutive 7 workdays, an employer may require reasonable documentation that the earned paid sick time has been used for a purpose covered by 8 9 subsection A of this section. Documentation signed by a heath care 10 professional indicating that earned paid sick time is necessary 11 shall be considered reasonable documentation for purposes of this 12 section. In cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment 13 or stalking, one of the following types of documentation selected by 14 the employee shall be considered reasonable documentation:

15 1. A police report indicating that the employee or the 16 employee's family member was a victim of domestic violence, sexual 17 assault, harassment or stalking;

A signed statement from a victim and witness advocate
 affirming that the employee or employee's family member is receiving
 services from a victim services organization; or

3. A court document indicating that the employee or employee's
family member is involved in legal action related to domestic
violence, sexual assault, harassment or stalking.

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1 An employer shall not require that the documentation explain the 2 nature of the illness or the details of the domestic violence, 3 sexual assault, harassment or stalking. If an employer chooses to 4 require documentation for earned paid sick time and the employer 5 does not offer health insurance to the employee, then the employer is responsible for paying all out-of-pocket expenses the employee 6 7 incurs in obtaining the documentation. If the employee does have health insurance, the employer is responsible for paying any costs 8 9 charged to the employee by the health care provider for providing 10 the specific documentation required by the employer. The employer 11 is responsible for paying any costs charged to the employee for 12 documentation of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment or 13 stalking required by the employer.

14 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 905 of Title 40, unless there is 16 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It shall be unlawful for an employer or any other person to
interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to
exercise, any right protected under the Healthy Families and
Workplaces Act.

B. An employer shall not take retaliatory personnel action or discriminate against an employee or former employee because the person has exercised rights protected under this act. Such rights include but are not limited to:

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The right to request or use earned paid sick time pursuant
 to this act;

3 2. The right to file a complaint with the Department or courts 4 or inform any person about any employer's alleged violation of this 5 act;

3. The right to participate in an investigation, hearing or
proceeding or cooperate with or assist the Department in its
investigations of alleged violations of this act; and

9 4. The right to inform any person of his or her potential10 rights under this act.

11 C. It shall be unlawful for an employer's absence-control 12 policy to count earned paid sick time taken under this act as an 13 absence that may lead to or result in discipline, discharge, 14 demotion, suspension or any other adverse action.

D. Protections of this section shall apply to any person who
mistakenly but in good faith alleges violations of this act.

E. There shall be a rebuttable presumption of unlawful retaliatory personnel action under this section whenever an employer takes adverse action against a person within ninety (90) days of when that person:

Files a complaint with the Department or a court alleging a
 violation of any provision of this act;

23 2. Informs any person about an employer's alleged violation of24 this act;

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3. Cooperates with the Department or other persons in the
 investigation or prosecution of any alleged violation of this act;

3 4. Opposes any policy, practice or act that is unlawful under4 this act; or

5 5. Informs any person of his or her rights under this act.
6 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 906 of Title 40, unless there is

8 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. Employers shall give employees written notice of the
10 following at the commencement of employment or by November 1, 2019,
11 whichever is later:

Employees are entitled to earned paid sick time and the
 amount of earned paid sick time;

The terms of its use guaranteed under the Healthy Families
 and Workplaces Act;

16 3. Retaliatory personnel action against employees who request 17 or use earned paid sick time is prohibited;

Each employee has the right to file a complaint or bring a
 civil action if earned paid sick time as required by this act is
 denied by the employer or the employee is subjected to retaliatory
 personnel action for requesting or taking earned paid sick time; and

5. The contact information for the Department of Labor where questions about rights and responsibilities under this act can be answered.

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B. The notice required in subsection A of this section shall be
in English, Spanish and any language that is the first language
spoken by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the employer's
workforce, provided that such notice has been provided by the
Department.

C. The amount of earned paid sick time available to the
employee, the amount of earned paid sick time taken by the employee
in the year and the amount of pay the employee has received as
earned paid sick time shall be recorded in, or on an attachment to,
the employee's regular paycheck.

D. Employers shall display a poster that contains the information required in subsection A of this section in a conspicuous and accessible place in each establishment where such employees are employed. The poster displayed shall be in English, Spanish and any language that is the first language spoken by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the employer's workforce, provided that such poster has been provided by the Department.

E. The Department shall create and make available to employers, in all languages spoken by more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the Oklahoma workforce and any language deemed appropriate by the Department, model notices and posters that contain the information required under subsection A of this section for employers' use in complying with subsections A and D of this section.

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F. An employer who willfully violates the notice and posting
 requirements of this section shall be subject to a fine in an amount
 not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each separate
 offense.

5 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 907 of Title 40, unless there is 7 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Employers shall retain records documenting hours worked by 8 9 employees and earned paid sick time taken by employees for a period 10 of three (3) years and shall allow the Department of Labor access to 11 such records, with appropriate notice and at a mutually agreeable 12 time, to monitor compliance with the requirements of this act. When 13 an issue arises as to an employee's entitlement to earned paid sick 14 time under this section, if the employer does not maintain or retain 15 adequate records documenting hours worked by the employee and earned 16 paid sick time taken by the employee, or does not allow the 17 Department reasonable access to such records, it shall be presumed 18 that the employer has violated this act, absent clear and convincing 19 evidence otherwise.

20 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 908 of Title 40, unless there is 22 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Department of Labor shall be authorized to coordinate implementation and enforcement of the Healthy Families and

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Workplaces Act and shall promulgate rules pursuant to the
 Administrative Procedures Act for such purposes.

3 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 909 of Title 40, unless there is 5 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Department of Labor shall enforce the provisions of the
Healthy Families and Workplaces Act. In effectuating such
enforcement, the Department shall establish a system utilizing
multiple means of communication to receive complaints regarding
noncompliance with this act and investigate complaints received by
the Department in a timely manner.

12 B. Any person alleging a violation of this act shall have the 13 right to file a complaint with the Department within ninety (90) 14 days of the date the person knew or should have known of the alleged 15 violation. The Department shall encourage reporting pursuant to 16 this subsection by keeping confidential, to the maximum extent 17 permitted by applicable laws, the name and other identifying 18 information of the employee or person reporting the violation; 19 provided, however, that with the authorization of such person, the 20 Department may disclose his or her name and identifying information 21 as necessary to enforce this act or for other appropriate purposes.

C. Upon receiving a complaint alleging a violation of this act, the Department shall investigate such complaint and attempt to resolve it through mediation between the complainant and the subject 1 of the complaint, or other means. The Department shall keep 2 complainants notified regarding the status of their complaint and any resultant investigation. If the Department believes that a 3 violation has occurred, it shall issue to the offending person or 4 5 entity a notice of violation and the relief required of the offending person or entity. The Department shall prescribe the form 6 7 and wording of such notices of violation including any method of 8 appealing the decision of the Department.

9 D. The Department shall have the power to impose penalties 10 provided for in this act and to grant an employee or former employee 11 all appropriate relief. Such relief shall include but not be 12 limited to:

For each instance of earned paid sick time taken by an
 employee but unlawfully not compensated by the employer: three times
 the wages that should have been paid under this act or One Thousand
 Dollars (\$1,000.00), whichever is greater;

17 2. For each instance of earned paid sick time requested by an 18 employee but unlawfully denied by the employer and not taken by the 19 employee or unlawfully conditioned upon searching for or finding a 20 replacement worker: One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);

3. For each instance of unlawful retaliation not including discharge from employment: full compensation including wages and benefits lost, an additional amount of at least One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and equitable relief as appropriate; and

4. For each instance of unlawful discharge from employment:
 full compensation including wages and benefits lost, One Thousand
 Dollars (\$1,000.00) and equitable relief, including reinstatement,
 as appropriate.

5 E. The Department shall annually report on its website the 6 number and nature of the complaints received pursuant to this act, 7 the results of investigations undertaken pursuant to this act, 8 including the number of complaints not substantiated and the number 9 of notices of violations issued, the number and nature of 10 adjudications pursuant to this act and the average time for a 11 complaint to be resolved.

F. The Department, the Attorney General, any person aggrieved by a violation of this act or any entity a member of which is aggrieved by a violation of this act may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against an employer violating this act. Such action may be brought by a person aggrieved by a violation of this section without first filing an administrative complaint.

SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 910 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

An employer shall not require disclosure of details relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment or stalking or the details of an employee's or an employee's family member's health

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information as a condition of providing earned paid sick time under the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act. If an employer possesses health information or information pertaining to domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment or stalking about an employee or employee's family member, such information shall be treated as confidential and not disclosed except to the affected employee or with the permission of the affected employee.

8 SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 911 of Title 40, unless there is 10 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Nothing in the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act shall be construed to discourage or prohibit an employer from the adoption or retention of an earned paid sick time policy more generous than the one required by this act.

B. Nothing in this act shall be construed as diminishing the
obligation of an employer to comply with any contract, collective
bargaining agreement, employment benefit plan or other agreement
providing more generous paid sick time to an employee than required
by this act.

20 C. Nothing in this act shall be construed as diminishing the 21 rights of public employees regarding paid sick time or use of paid 22 sick time.

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D. Nothing in this act shall be construed to supersede any
 provision of any local law that provides greater rights to paid sick
 time than the rights established under this act.

4 SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 912 of Title 40, unless there is 6 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 The Healthy Families and Workplaces Act provides minimum 8 requirements pertaining to earned paid sick time and shall not be 9 construed to preempt, limit or otherwise affect the applicability of 10 any other law, regulation, requirement, policy or standard that 11 provides for greater accrual or use by employees of earned paid sick 12 time or that extends other protections to employees.

SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 913 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 The Department of Labor shall develop and implement a 17 multilingual outreach program to inform employees, parents and 18 persons who are under the care of a health care provider about the 19 availability of earned paid sick time under the Healthy Families and 20 Workplaces Act. This program shall include the distribution of 21 notices and other written materials in English, Spanish and any 22 language that is the first language spoken by at least twenty-five 23 percent (25%) of the state's population to all child care and elder

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1	care providers, domestic violence shelters, schools, hospitals,
2	community health centers and other health care providers.
3	SECTION 14. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.
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