

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2533

By: Blancett

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to child-placing agencies; amending  
8 Section 1, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 2018 (10A O.S. Supp.  
9 2018, Section 1-8-112), which relates to the Oklahoma  
10 Children's Code; modifying applicability to child-  
11 placing agency receiving neither federal nor state  
12 funds; prohibiting license denial or revocation of  
13 agency receiving neither federal nor state funds;  
14 proscribing denial of participation of agency  
15 receiving neither federal nor state funds;  
16 prohibiting civil action against certain agency; and  
17 providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 322, O.S.L.  
2018 (10A O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 1-8-112), is amended to read as  
follows:

Section 1-8-112. A. To the extent allowed by federal law, no  
private child-placing agency receiving neither federal nor state  
funds shall be required to perform, assist, counsel, recommend,  
consent to, refer, or participate in any placement of a child for  
foster care or adoption when the proposed placement would violate  
the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies.

1 B. The Department of Human Services shall not deny an  
2 application for an initial license or renewal of a license or revoke  
3 the license of a private child-placing agency receiving neither  
4 federal nor state funds because of the agency's objection to  
5 performing, assisting, counseling, recommending, consenting to,  
6 referring, or participating in a placement that violates the  
7 agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies.

8 C. A state or local government entity may not deny a private  
9 child-placing agency receiving neither federal nor state funds any  
10 grant, contract, or participation in a government program because of  
11 the agency's objection to performing, assisting, counseling,  
12 recommending, consenting to, referring, or participating in a  
13 placement that violates the agency's written religious or moral  
14 convictions or policies.

15 D. Refusal of a private child-placing agency receiving neither  
16 federal nor state funds to perform, assist, counsel, recommend,  
17 consent to, refer, or participate in a placement that violates the  
18 agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies shall  
19 not form the basis of a civil action.

20 E. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a private  
21 child-placing agency shall not refuse to perform any act otherwise  
22 required by state or federal law, or authorize any act otherwise  
23 prohibited by state or federal law. The provisions of this act  
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1 shall not be construed to allow a private child-placing agency to  
2 refuse any services to a child in the custody of the Department.

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

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