

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1979

By: Ranson

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to public health and safety; defining certain terms; creating the TBI Advisory Council; providing certain services for individuals with traumatic brain injury; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-291.7 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As defined in this act:

1. "Traumatic brain injury (TBI)" means a nondegenerative, noncongenital insult to the brain from an external mechanical force, possibly leading to permanent or temporary impairment of cognitive, physical and psychosocial functions, with an associated diminished or altered state of consciousness;

2. "TBI's Corner" means a source that explains traumatic brain injury and how it affects every group of individuals, teens and

1 adults. It will further provide answers and resources to those who  
2 want to learn more about the disability and find organizations and  
3 businesses that can better assist those affected by TBI. Its  
4 primary focus is to emphasize an individual's reentry to school;

5 3. "Members of TBI Raiders" means a place in which the  
6 volunteers with and without a TBI can come relax, build an online  
7 resume and highlight and empower the volunteer service and the  
8 community work in which individuals who have a traumatic brain  
9 injury engage actively. Its primary focus is to emphasize an  
10 individual's reentry to the workforce; and

11 4. "Survive to Vote" means an effort that was begun in 2005  
12 with the purpose of getting issues important to the disability  
13 community out not just in the time of election but out to those who  
14 are presently in office working to represent everyone. It is about  
15 ensuring elected officials show equal representation not only for  
16 those who do not have disabilities but also those who do.

17 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-291.8 of Title 63, unless  
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. The TBI Advisory Council is hereby created which shall  
21 oversee the implementation of this act. The Council shall be  
22 composed of nine (9) members: an executive director, a  
23 representative of the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature, a  
24 representative of the Brain Injury Association of Oklahoma, an

1 individual representing veterans, a representative of the State  
2 Department of Rehabilitation Services, a state representative or  
3 senator, a doctor who provides rehabilitative services, a family  
4 advocate and a special education teacher.

5 1. The Governor shall appoint the executive director;

6 2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:

7 a. a representative of the Oklahoma Intercollegiate  
8 Legislature,

9 b. a representative of the Brain Injury Association of  
10 Oklahoma or similar organization, and

11 c. an individual representing veterans;

12 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint:

13 a. a representative of the State Department of  
14 Rehabilitation Services,

15 b. a state representative or senator, and

16 c. a doctor who provides rehabilitative services; and

17 4. The Attorney General shall appoint:

18 a. a family advocate, and

19 b. a special education teacher.

20 B. The TBI Advisory Council is focused on reducing risks,  
21 promoting prevention and using effective disease management to  
22 reduce the incidence and prevalence of brain injuries. The TBI  
23 Advisory Council also strives to make it possible for any person who  
24 has survived a brain injury to achieve and maintain a high quality

1 of life by accessing services and support a person may need as he or  
2 she heals and returns to his or her home and community.

3 C. Students living with and without disabilities as well as  
4 young adults who have sustained a traumatic brain injury shall  
5 assist with helping veterans with TBI.

6 D. The TBI Advisory Council shall monitor and assist by:

7 1. Serving as a portal for the Pediatric Brain Injury  
8 Conference committee along with the Secondary and Postsecondary  
9 State Departments to work together to see that students who have  
10 sustained a TBI get an equal chance as their peers without  
11 disabilities in succeeding in school;

12 2. Providing a smooth transition from high school to college;

13 3. Encouraging students with TBI to create and build their own  
14 online resumes;

15 4. Providing seminars to young adults living with disabilities  
16 to help them learn how to speak up and how laws are created and  
17 passed;

18 5. Providing training for educators such as coaches, teachers  
19 and administrators on signs of TBI and treatment;

20 6. Providing a traumatic brain injury (TBI) information packet  
21 to the family of the TBI survivor in rehabilitation; and

22 7. Providing every survivor with an individual plan for  
23 rehabilitation and reintegration.  
24

1 E. Members of the TBI Advisory Council shall receive no  
2 compensation for serving on the Council, but shall receive travel  
3 reimbursements as follows:

4 1. State employees who are members of the Council shall be  
5 reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance  
6 of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the  
7 State Travel Reimbursement Act;

8 2. Legislative members of the Council shall be reimbursed for  
9 necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
10 duties in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74  
11 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

12 3. All other members of the Council shall be reimbursed by the  
13 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for necessary travel  
14 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance  
15 with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

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

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