

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 1979

By: Ranson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

17 As defined in this act:

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

23 2. "TBI's Corner" means a source that explains traumatic brain
24 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. A traumatic brain injury (TBI) information packet shall be
21 given to the family of the TBI survivor in rehabilitation.

22 B. The TBI Advisory Council is hereby created which shall
23 oversee the implementation of this act. The advisory council shall
24 consist of an executive director, a representative of the Oklahoma

1 Intercollegiate Legislature, a representative of the Brain Injury
2 Association of Oklahoma, an individual representing veterans, a
3 representative of the State Department of Rehabilitation Services, a
4 state representative or senator, a doctor who provides
5 rehabilitative services, a family advocate and a special education
6 teacher.

7 C. The TBI Advisory Council is focused on reducing risks,
8 promoting prevention and using effective disease management to
9 reduce the incidence and prevalence of brain injuries. The TBI
10 Advisory Council also strives to make it possible for any person who
11 has survived a brain injury to achieve and maintain a high quality
12 of life by accessing services and support a person may need as he or
13 she heals and returns to his or her home and community.

14 D. Every survivor shall be provided an individual plan for
15 rehabilitation and reintegration.

16 E. Students living with and without disabilities as well as
17 young adults who have sustained a traumatic brain injury shall
18 assist with helping veterans with TBI.

19 F. The TBI Council shall monitor and assist by:

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

- 1 2. Providing a smooth transition from high school to college;
- 2 3. Encouraging students with TBI to create and build their own
- 3 online resumes;
- 4 4. Providing seminars to young adults living with disabilities
- 5 to help them learn how to speak up and how laws are created and
- 6 passed; and
- 7 5. Providing training for educators such as coaches, teachers
- 8 and administrators on signs of TBI and treatment.

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

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