

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 1983

By: Branham

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to foster care; defining terms;
8 permitting youth to receive extended foster care
9 services; setting age limitation; authorizing
10 Department of Human Services to provide extended
11 services; listing eligibility requirements; stating
12 voluntary nature of services; requiring Department to
13 notify youth if services are terminated for failure
14 to meet eligibility; directing Department to secure
15 federal funding for services; delegating rulemaking
16 authority to Department to implement provisions;
17 providing for codification; and providing an
18 effective date.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-8-113 of Title 10A, unless
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. As used in this section:

24 1. "Foster care services" means services or programs that may
include but are not limited to housing, transitional or independent
living, crisis intervention, case supervision, job placement,
educational or vocational placement, training, counseling, early

1 intervention and diversionary substance abuse treatment, sexual
2 abuse treatment and other related services and programs; and

3 2. "Youth" means a person who is at least eighteen (18) years
4 of age but less than twenty-one (21) years of age.

5 B. A youth who:

6 1. Exited foster care after reaching eighteen (18) years of
7 age; or

8 2. Is in foster care when reaching eighteen (18) years of age,
9 may reenter or remain in foster care and receive extended foster
10 care services until twenty-one (21) years of age.

11 C. The Department of Human Services may provide extended foster
12 care services if the youth meets one of the following conditions for
13 eligibility:

14 1. The youth is completing secondary education or a program
15 leading to an equivalent credential;

16 2. The youth is enrolled in an institution that provides
17 postsecondary or vocational education;

18 3. The youth is participating in a program or activity designed
19 to promote employment or remove barriers to employment;

20 4. The youth is employed for at least eighty (80) hours per
21 month; or

22 5. The youth is incapable of doing any part of the activities
23 described in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection due to a
24 medical condition. An assertion of incapacity pursuant to this

1 paragraph shall be supported by regularly updated information in the
2 case plan of the youth.

3 D. Extended foster care services are voluntary and a youth may
4 choose to stop receiving the services at any time. If the
5 Department determines that the youth no longer meets the eligibility
6 requirements provided in subsection C of this section for extended
7 foster care services, the Department shall provide written or
8 electronic notice to the youth regarding termination of the extended
9 foster care services.

10 E. The Department shall:

11 1. Secure funding from and implement the provisions of this
12 section in accordance with the approved Title IV-E State Plan; and

13 2. Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the
14 provisions of this section.

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

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