BILL SUMMARY

1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.: SB949
Version: ENGR

Request Number:

Author: Rep. Roe
Date: 4/9/2025
Impact: \$0

Research Analysis

The engrossed version of SB 949 authorizes a designated representative of the Office of Client Advocacy within the State Department of Health to inspect juvenile court records and provides that confidential information is disclosed to an authorized representative of the State Department of Health upon presentation of identification. The measure gives the Office authority over vulnerable adult investigations that relate to a plaintiff in Homeward Bound, Inc., et al. v. The Hissom Memorial Center, residents of the Robert M. Greer Center or successor facility, or adults receiving services from a community services provider, community services worker, Medicaid personal care services provider, or Medicaid personal care assistant, when such provider or worker is the alleged perpetrator. The measure authorizes the State Commissioner of Health to issue subpoenas for the testimony of individuals or for the production of records in connection with an investigation conducted by the Office of Client Advocacy. The measure provides that the Advocate General must perform the duties imposed on the Office of Client Advocacy under the Protective Services for Vulnerable Adults Act when the Office is the appropriate state entity. The measure authorizes the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to access investigate reports if the allegation concerns a vulnerable adult who is a resident of a long-term care facility. The Office of Client Advocacy is directed to establish a system for investigating allegations of misconduct against vulnerable adults not rising to the level of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The measure updates statutory language relating to the Office of Client Advocacy and directs the Office to report investigative findings relating to community service workers to the Department of Human Services.

Prepared By: Suzie Nahach, House Research Staff

Fiscal Analysis

SB 949 updates statutory language related to the Office of Client Advocacy to reflect its transfer from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), as approved in the 2024 session. This measure provides cleanup language to align with current statutes. In its current form, SB 949 is not expected to have a direct fiscal impact on the state budget.

Prepared By: Alexandra Ladner, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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