

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 207

By: Woods and Hicks of the  
Senate

3 and

4 West (Josh) and Waldron of  
the House

5  
6  
7 [ public health - Council - report - educational and  
newborn screening programs - requirement - report -  
codification - effective date -

8 emergency ]

9  
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-451 of Title 63, unless there  
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. The Oklahoma Rare Disease Advisory Council shall be  
15 established within the State Department of Health in accordance with  
16 this section.

17 B. The purpose of the Council shall be to provide guidance and  
18 recommendations to educate the public, the Legislature, and other  
19 state agencies, as appropriate, on the needs of individuals with  
20 rare diseases living in this state.

21 C. The Council shall conduct the following activities to  
22 benefit those impacted by rare diseases in this state:

1       1. Convene public hearings, make inquiries, and solicit  
2 comments from the general public in Oklahoma to assist the Council  
3 with a first-year landscape or survey of the needs of rare disease  
4 patients, caregivers, and providers in the state;

5       2. Provide testimony and comments on pending legislation and  
6 regulations before the Legislature, if called, and other state  
7 agencies that impact Oklahoma's rare disease community;

8       3. Consult with experts on rare diseases to develop policy  
9 recommendations to improve patient access to, and quality of, rare  
10 disease specialists, affordable and comprehensive health care  
11 coverage, relevant diagnostics, timely treatment, and other needed  
12 services;

13       4. Establish best practices and protocols to include in state  
14 planning related to natural disasters, public health emergencies, or  
15 other emergency declarations to enable continuity of care for rare  
16 disease patients and ensure safeguards against discrimination for  
17 rare disease patients are in place;

18       5. Identify areas of unmet need for research and opportunities  
19 for collaboration with stakeholders and other states' rare disease  
20 advisory councils that can inform future studies and work done by  
21 the Council; and

22       6. Research and identify best practices to reduce health  
23 disparities and achieve health equity in the research, diagnosis,  
24 and treatment of rare disease in this state.

1       D. 1. The Council's appointment process shall be conducted in  
2 a transparent manner to provide interested individuals an  
3 opportunity to apply for membership on the Council. All members of  
4 the Council shall be full-time residents of this state as  
5 practicable. Membership shall include a diverse set of stakeholders  
6 representative of the geographic and population diversity of the  
7 state.

8           2. The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Council not  
9 later than December 1, 2025. The chair shall not hold any position  
10 within the government of this state.

11          3. The chair shall appoint no fewer than thirteen (13) members,  
12 including the following:

- 13           a. one representative of an academic research institution  
14                   in the state that receives any grant funding for rare  
15                   disease research,
- 16           b. one representative of the Oklahoma Health Care  
17                   Authority,
- 18           c. one representative of the Insurance Department,
- 19           d. one Registered Nurse or Advanced Practice Registered  
20                   Nurse licensed and practicing in this state with  
21                   experience treating rare diseases,
- 22           e. one physician practicing in this state with experience  
23                   treating rare diseases,

- f. one hospital administrator, or his or her designee, from a hospital in this state that provides care to persons diagnosed with a rare disease,
  - g. at least two patients who have a rare disease,
  - h. at least one caregiver of a person with a rare disease,
  - i. one representative of a rare disease patient organization that operates in this state,
  - j. one representative of the biopharmaceutical industry,
  - k. one representative of a health plan company, and
  - l. one member of the scientific community who is engaged in rare disease research including, but not limited to, a medical researcher with experience conducting research on rare diseases.

4. The chair may appoint additional members on an ad hoc basis.

E. 1. The Council shall electronically submit a report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor within one (1) year of establishment of the Oklahoma Rare Disease Advisory Council and annually thereafter. Prior to submission, a draft of the annual report shall be made available for public comment and discussed at an open public meeting.

2. Annual reports shall:

- a. describe the activities and progress of the Council under this section, and
  - b. provide recommendations to the Legislature and Governor on ways to address the needs of people living with rare diseases in this state.

6 F. 1. The initial meeting of the Council shall occur no later  
7 than February 1, 2026. Thereafter, the Council shall meet no less  
8 than quarterly.

9       2. Meetings of the Council shall be conducted in accordance  
10 with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

11 | G. The Council shall:

12       1. Provide opportunities for the public to hear updates and  
13 provide input into its work; and

14        2. Create and maintain a public website where meeting minutes,  
15 notices of upcoming meetings, and public comments may be submitted.

H. 1. The Governor shall appoint the chair for an initial term of three (3) years. At the end of the chair's initial three-year term, and every two (2) years thereafter, members of the Council shall elect, by a majority vote, a new chair.

20        2. Council members shall serve no longer than three (3) years,  
21 except that, to facilitate a staggered rotation of members to retain  
22 continuity and knowledge transfer, during the initial five (5) years  
23 after the establishment of the Council, members may serve up to a  
24 four-year term.

1       3. If a vacancy occurs, the Council, by a majority vote, shall  
2 fill such vacancy in a timely manner and in compliance with  
3 requirements set forth in subsection D of this section.

4       I. As used in this section, "rare disease", sometimes called an  
5 orphan disease, means a disease that affects fewer than two hundred  
6 thousand (200,000) people in the United States.

7       SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-533, as  
8 amended by Section 1, Chapter 161, O.S.L. 2022 (63 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
9 Section 1-533), is amended to read as follows:

10      Section 1-533. A. The State Commissioner of Health shall  
11 provide, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1-534 of this title,  
12 as technologies and funds become available, an intensive educational  
13 and newborn screening program among physicians, hospitals, public  
14 health nurses, and the public concerning phenylketonuria, related  
15 inborn metabolic disorders, and other genetic or biochemical  
16 disorders for which:

17       1. Newborn screening will provide early treatment and  
18 management opportunities that might not be available without  
19 screening; and

20       2. Treatment and management will prevent intellectual  
21 disabilities and/or reduce infant morbidity and mortality.

22       B. This educational and newborn screening program shall include  
23 information about:

24       1. The nature of the diseases;

1       2. Examinations for the detection of the diseases in infancy;

2 and

3       3. Follow-up measures to prevent the morbidity and mortality  
4 resulting from these diseases.

5       C. For purposes of this section, "phenylketonuria" means an  
6 inborn error of metabolism attributable to a deficiency of or a  
7 defect in phenylalanine hydroxylase, the enzyme that catalyzes the  
8 conversion of phenylalanine to tyrosine. The deficiency permits the  
9 accumulation of phenylalanine and its metabolic products in the body  
10 fluids. The deficiency can result in intellectual disabilities  
11 (phenylpyruvic oligophrenia), neurologic manifestations (including  
12 hyperkinesia, epilepsy, and microcephaly), light pigmentation, and  
13 eczema. The disorder is transmitted as an autosomal recessive trait  
14 and can be treated by administration of a diet low in phenylalanine.

15       D. To the extent practicable, the ~~list of~~ disorders screened  
16 for under this section shall ~~be identical to~~ at a minimum include  
17 those listed in the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel of the  
18 United States Department of Health and Human Services.

19       E. On November 1, 2026, and each November 1 thereafter, the  
20 State Department of Health shall compile an annual report listing  
21 the disorders screened for under this section, specifying any  
22 disorders added since the prior annual report, and detailing efforts  
23 being undertaken to add additional disorders. The report shall be  
24 published on the Department's website and shall be submitted

1 electronically to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the  
2 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, and the  
3 Oklahoma Rare Disease Advisory Council established under Section 1  
4 of this act.

5       F. The Commissioner shall promulgate any rules necessary to  
6 effectuate the provision of this section.

7 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

8 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
9 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

12 | Passed the Senate the 27th day of March, 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

16 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
17 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives