STATE OF OKLAHOMA
1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

HOUSE BILL 1507

By: Strohm

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children and juvenile code; permitting private child-placing agency to refuse participation in any placement that violates written religious convictions or policies of the agency; prohibiting denial, revocation or suspension of agency license due to refusal; 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 1-8-112 of Title 10A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. No private child-placing agency shall be required to perform, assist, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer or participate in any placement of a child for foster care or adoption when the proposed placement would violate the written religious or moral convictions or policies of the agency.

B. The Department of Human Services shall not deny an application for an initial license or renewal of a license or revoke the license of a private child-placing agency because of the
agency's objection to performing, assisting, counseling,
recommending, consenting to, referring or participating in a
placement that violates the written religious or moral convictions
or policies of the agency.

C. A state or local government department, agency, board,
commission or entity shall not deny a private child-placing agency
any grant, contract or participation in a government program because
of the agency's objection to performing, assisting, counseling,
recommending, consenting to, referring or participating in a
placement that violates the written religious or moral convictions
or policies of the agency.

D. Refusal of a private child-placing agency to perform,
assist, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer or participate in a
placement that violates the written religious or moral convictions
or policies of the agency shall not form the basis of any action for
damages.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.