

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 1636

By: Hicks and Goodwin of the  
Senate

and

Ford, Fetgatter, and  
Stewart of the House

An Act relating to law enforcement; defining terms; requiring certain review upon certain request; stating review criteria; clarifying individuals authorized to make certain review; requiring confirmation of receipt; prohibiting more than one review at given time; stating time frame for which certain review shall be concluded; authorizing certain extension of time frame; requiring certain notice; requiring certain coordination; requiring certain consultation and meeting; stating time frame for which additional review is prohibited; construing provision; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Law enforcement case review

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 146 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Case file review" means a review of all information, evidence, records, testimonies, and other pertinent information regarding a cold case;

2. "Cold case" means a case of violent crime, as provided for in Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for which all probative investigative leads have been exhausted and for which no likely perpetrator has been identified;

3. "Designated person" means an immediate family member or similar individual as determined by the law enforcement agency reviewing a case file;

4. "Immediate family member" means the spouse, a child by birth or adoption, a stepchild, a parent by birth or adoption, a stepparent, a grandparent, a grandchild, a sibling, or a stepsibling of a victim;

5. "Law enforcement agency" means any department or agency of the state, a county, a municipality, or a political subdivision thereof, with the duties to maintain public order, make arrests, and enforce the criminal laws of this state or municipal ordinances and that employs personnel certified by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training; and

6. "Victim" means the victim of a violent crime.

B. 1. A law enforcement agency shall review the case file regarding a cold case upon written application by a designated person to determine if further investigation would result in probative investigative leads.

2. The case file review shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. an analysis of the investigative steps or follow-up steps that may contribute to the initial investigation,
- b. an assessment of whether witnesses should be interviewed or reinterviewed,
- c. a review of physical evidence to determine if all appropriate forensic testing and analyses were performed in the first instance or if additional testing might produce information relevant to the investigation, and

- d. a modernization of the file to raise it to current investigative standards to the extent that it would develop probative leads.

3. The person or persons employed by a law enforcement agency and performing the case file review shall not have previously investigated the cold case being reviewed.

4. The law enforcement agency shall confirm receipt of the request for a case file review in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection.

5. Only one case file review shall be undertaken at a time with respect to the same victim.

- 6. a. The law enforcement agency reviewing a cold case shall, within six (6) months of receiving an application for a case file review, reach a conclusion about whether further investigation is warranted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection.

- b. The law enforcement agency shall be authorized to extend the time requirement pursuant to subparagraph a of this paragraph for a period of up to six (6) months at a time if the law enforcement agency determines that the number of case files to be reviewed would make it impracticable to comply with the provisions of this subsection. The law enforcement agency shall provide written notice and an explanation of the reasoning for extending the time frame for conclusion of a case file review to the designated person who made the written application pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection.

C. If there is more than one law enforcement agency that would be subject to reviewing the same cold case, the law enforcement agencies shall jointly coordinate the case file review.

D. 1. The law enforcement agency shall consult with the designated person who filed a written application pursuant to

paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section and provide the designated person with periodic updates during the case file review.

2. The law enforcement agency shall meet with the designated person and discuss the findings to explain the decision whether to engage in further investigation.

E. 1. If a case file review is completed and the law enforcement agency concludes that further investigation is not warranted, no additional review shall be taken for the same cold case for at least five (5) years, unless new evidence that is materially significant is discovered.

2. If a suspect is not identified after further investigation, no additional case file review or further investigation shall be undertaken for the same cold case for at least five (5) years.

F. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to interfere with the ability of law enforcement to conduct further investigation.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

Passed the Senate the 25th day of March, 2026.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of May, 2026.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_