

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1955

By: Caldwell

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to poor persons; providing legislative intent and purpose; providing for revision of certain rules; authorizing certain continued benefits; providing exceptions; specifying certain limitations; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 701 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes that certain provisions of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program operate as disincentives for participants to become actively engaged in employment. It is the purpose of this section to remove several such disincentives and to replace them with rewards for the efforts and persistence required to obtain and sustain training and employment so that public assistance is no longer needed. It is the intent of the Legislature that such incentives will assist in the strengthening of the family unit and will encourage individuals to become economically self-sufficient and productive members of this society.

B. By January 1, 1995, the Department of Human Services shall revise applicable standards and rules which will allow:

1. Recipients of medical assistance and child care benefits under the state Medicaid program who become employed to continue to receive such assistance and benefits for twenty-four (24) months following the initial date of employment unless:

- a. the employer provides medical assistance and child care benefits, or
- b. the monthly salary received from the employer exceeds the monthly allowance of assistance pursuant to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program plus the cost of child care and medical assistance to which the recipient would be entitled; and

2. For the indexing of benefits on a phased basis for recipients who become employed, provided the phased basis shall only be in an amount of combined income from work and continued benefits equal to the benefit which would have been to the recipient if the recipient were unemployed.

C. The Department shall submit any federal waiver requests necessary no later than September 1, 1994, to implement the provisions of this section. The provisions of this section shall not be implemented until such federal waivers are approved and a certification is made by the Department to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate that the implementation of this section shall not result in the loss of any federal funds.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1994.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

44-2-8208

KSM