

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED  
SENATE BILL NO. 652

By: Long (Ed) and Williams  
(Penny) of the Senate

and

Boyd (Laura) of the House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; creating the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act; providing short title; defining terms; stating purpose; construing act; creating the Joint Legislative Committee for review of Early Childhood Services; stating duties; specifying membership; providing for appointment of chair and vice-chair; defining quorum; providing for staff support; creating the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services; specifying membership; stating duties; requiring completion of State Plan; stating certain components of State Plan; providing for certain interagency agreements; requiring certain funding plan; providing for codification; 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 601.70 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 2 through 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.71 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act:

1. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;

2. "Committee" means the Joint Legislative Committee for Review of Early Childhood Services;

3. "Coordinating Council" means the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services;

4. "Eligible population" means children from birth to six (6) years of age; and

5. "State Plan" means the State Plan for Coordination of Early Childhood Services.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.72 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the purpose of the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act to provide quality services to the eligible population through a coordinated system that:

1. Is comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency and is established to reduce the direct costs to state agencies for the provision of early childhood services to the eligible population;

2. Is delivered cooperatively by local education, social services and health agencies, the State Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Health and other appropriate public agencies and private agencies supported in whole or in part with public funds;

3. Fulfills the requirements of state and federal laws pertaining to the eligible population; and

4. Enhances the ability of families to meet the needs of their children who are members of the eligible population.

B. It is the further purpose of the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act to provide guidelines for timely and cost-effective delivery of early childhood services for the eligible population.

C. Nothing in the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act shall relieve the public schools, the State Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Health or other publicly funded agencies, officers or employees

thereof of their respective responsibilities to the eligible population.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.73 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2001, the Joint Legislative Committee for Review of Early Childhood Services, which shall:

1. Meet with the Coordinating Council, and with other state officials and employees responsible for the development and implementation of the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act, at regular intervals as established by the Committee and whenever otherwise necessary; and

2. Recommend legislation which may be necessary to enact or change statutory provisions regarding interagency agreements or the coordination or delivery of services, which are necessary to implement the provisions of the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act.

B. The Joint Legislative Committee for Review of Early Childhood Services shall be composed of fourteen (14) members who shall be legislators and who shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Seven members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and seven members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chair shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore for odd-numbered years from among the legislators appointed by the President Pro Tempore, and appointed by the Speaker for even-numbered years from among the legislators appointed by the Speaker. The vice-chair shall be appointed by the Speaker for odd-numbered years from among the legislators appointed by the Speaker, and appointed by the President Pro Tempore for even-numbered years from among legislators appointed by the President Pro Tempore. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members appointed. Staff support services required by the Committee shall be provided by the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Legislative Service Bureau, and if requested by the Committee, by

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the Commission. Travel reimbursement shall be provided to the members pursuant to Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.74 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2001, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services, which shall be administered by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth. Members of the Council shall include but not be limited to:

1. The Director of the Commission on Children and Youth or designee who shall chair the Council;

2. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee;

3. The Director of the Department of Human Services or designee;

4. The Commissioner of the State Department of Health or designee; and

5. Appointments by the Commission upon recommendation of the State Commissioner of Health, the Director of the Department of Human Services, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, as appropriate, as follows:

- a. parents of children who are members of the eligible population,
- b. members representing organizations involved in early childhood programs and services,
- c. a representative of the Early Childhood Division of the State Department of Education,
- d. a superintendent of a school district in this state that offers early childhood programs,
- e. a representative of the Child Care Division of the Department of Human Services,
- f. a representative of a Community Action Agency Head Start Program,

- g. a representative of an institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that confers doctoral degrees in family relations and child development, and
- h. others which may be deemed necessary by the Commission.

Staff support shall be provided by the Commission on Children and Youth.

B. The Coordinating Council shall:

1. Review existing early childhood services and programs, initiated by public and private agencies;
2. Recommend changes in proposed interagency agreements and the State Plan as deemed necessary;
3. Review the interagency agreements and State Plan, including any subsequent revisions;
4. Monitor the implementation of this act;
5. On or before July 1, 1996, complete the State Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of this act;
6. Prior to completion of the State Plan, make progress reports to the Committee at least once each quarter regarding development of the State Plan; and
7. After submission of the State Plan to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, monitor implementation of the Plan, evaluate the Plan, meet with the Committee concerning revisions whenever requested to do so, and on or before July 1, 1997, and July 1 of each subsequent year, submit a report on the implementation and evaluation of the State Plan to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.75 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The State Plan for Coordination of Early Childhood Services shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Delineation of service responsibilities and coordination of delivery of services to the eligible population by the agencies subject to the provisions of this act;

2. Establishment of services regions, and delineation of organizational structures or other means whereby coordination required by Section 3 of this act will be accomplished at the local and regional level;

3. Procedures for monitoring and improving such service delivery on a continuing basis;

4. Guidelines for interagency agreements; and

5. A funding and implementation plan which shall provide for the utilization of all financial resources from federal, state, local and private entities and the coordination of those resources to fund early childhood programs and services.

SECTION 7. 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."

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