

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2593

By: Paulk

An Act relating to labor; requiring the Commissioner to adopt tuberculosis safety standards for public employees under the Oklahoma Occupational Health and Safety Standards Act; stating purpose; requiring incorporation of certain guidelines into standards; requiring certain agencies having work areas with high rates of tuberculosis to perform certain actions; 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 407.1 of Title 40, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Commissioner, in accordance with Section 407 of this title, shall adopt tuberculosis safety standards which will be utilized to ensure a healthy work environment in the public sector in Oklahoma. These safety standards shall be adopted to ensure a healthy work environment that minimizes the risk of employees contracting tuberculosis. The standards shall incorporate guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control for preventing transmission of tuberculosis.

B. These standards shall require agencies identified by the Commissioner as having work areas with a high rate of tuberculosis to:

1. Adopt written protocol for early identification of employees with active tuberculosis;
2. Provide free medical surveillance that includes:
 - a. preplacement evaluation,
 - b. administration and interpretation of tuberculosis Mantoux skin test,
 - c. initial baseline screening, and
 - d. skin testing for all employees every six (6) months in high-risk settings;
3. Evaluate and assist workers with positive skin test conversion or signs and symptoms of tuberculosis;
4. Place individuals with suspected or confirmed tuberculosis disease in respiratory isolation rooms;
5. Create and mandate employee training and information programs about the hazards of tuberculosis, signs and symptoms of tuberculosis, medical surveillance and therapy and site specific protocols;
6. Require utilization by employees of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Hazards-approved, high-efficiency particulate respirators when:
 - a. entering rooms with tuberculosis patients,
 - b. performing high-hazard procedures,
 - c. transporting tuberculosis patients in closed vehicle;
7. Post warning signs outside tuberculosis isolation rooms;
8. Compile exposure and medical records of tuberculosis skin testing results and medical evaluation and treatment plans; and
9. Log occupationally acquired tuberculosis infections and diseases.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1996.

Passed the House of Representatives the 27th day of February,
1996.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1996.

President of the Senate