ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 652

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

and

Boyd (Laura) of the House

[schools - creating the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act - creating the Joint Legislative Committee for Review of Early Childhood Services - creating the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services - codification - 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 1210.901 of Title 70, 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 1210.902 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Coordination of Early Childhood Services Act:

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

2. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

3. "Coordinating Council" means the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services appointed pursuant to Section 5 of this act;

4. "Eligible population" means children from birth up to five (5) years of age; and

5. "State Plan" means the State Plan for Coordination of Early Childhood Services developed pursuant to Section 6 of this act.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.903 of Title 70, 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, in accordance with the funding plan requirements in Section 6 of this act, will reduce the direct costs to educational agencies for the provision of early childhood services to the eligible population;

2. Is delivered cooperatively by local education agencies, the State Department of Education, the Department of Human Services and 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 the state and federal laws pertaining to the eligible population; and

4. Enhances the capacity 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 for the determination of responsibilities for timely delivery of early childhood services for the eligible population and for the costs of the service delivery.

C. Nothing in this act shall be construed as relieving the public schools, the State Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Health or other publicly

funded agencies or 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 1210.904 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created 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 implementation of this act, at regular intervals as established by the Committee and whenever otherwise necessary to ensure that the purposes of Section 1 of this act are accomplished promptly and thoroughly;

2. Review existing early childhood services, including the Oklahoma Parents as Teachers programs, Head Start programs, Oklahoma Child Care Assistance Program, and early childhood programs initiated by the public schools;

3. Recommend changes in proposed interagency agreements and the State Plan as deemed available;

4. Review the interagency agreements and State Plan, including any subsequent revisions;

5. Hold hearings regarding any matters related to the provisions of this act;

6. Monitor the implementation of this act; and

7. Recommend legislation to correct statutory provisions that interfere with interagency agreements or the coordination or delivery of services, that are necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

B. The Joint Legislative Committee for Review of Early Childhood Services shall have 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 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 by the President Pro Tempore for even-numbered years from among legislators appointed by the President Pro Tempore. No quorum shall be required for a meeting, but no motion shall have effect unless at least four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore and four members appointed by the Speaker are present and cast affirmative votes for such motion. Staff support services required by the Committee shall be provided by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.905 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services to consist of twenty (20) members appointed as follows:

1. The chief executive officers or their designee of the:

a. Commission on Children and Youth, and

b. State Department of Health;

2. Two parents of children who are members of the eligible population to be appointed by the Governor;

3. Two parents of children who are members of the eligible population to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

4. Two parents of children who are members of the eligible population to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

5. Two members appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees representing organizations involved in early childhood programs and services submitted by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;

6. Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of nominees representing organizations involved in early childhood programs and services submitted by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;

7. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from a list of nominees representing organizations involved in early childhood programs and services submitted by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;

8. A representative of the Early Childhood Division of the State Department of Education selected by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;

9. A representative of the Child Care Division of the Department of Human Services selected by the Director of the Department of Human Services;

10. A representative of a Community Action Agency Head Start Program to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

11. A representative of an institution of higher education in this state that confers doctoral degrees in family relations and child development to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

12. A superintendent of a school district in this state that offers early childhood programs to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

13. The Governor or the Governor's designee, who shall chair the Coordinating Council. Staff support shall be provided by the Commission on Children and Youth.

B. The Coordinating Council shall:

1. On or before July 1, 1996, complete the State Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of this act;

2. Prior to completion of the State Plan and approval by the Committee, make progress reports to the Committee at least once each quarter regarding development of the State Plan; and

3. After approval of the State Plan, monitor implementation of the Plan, evaluate the Plan, meet with the Committee concerning revisions whenever requested to do so, and on or before November 1, 1997, and November 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 1210.906 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 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 1 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; and

4. 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.

B. On or before July 1, 1997, the agencies subject to the provisions of this act shall enter into interagency agreements for

the purpose of implementing the State Plan and the provisions of this act.

C. On or before September 1 of each year, a joint funding plan shall be submitted to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by the agencies subject to the provisions of this act. The individual components of the plan, as they relate to individual agencies, shall be incorporated annually into each affected agency's budget request in accordance with the provisions of Section 41.29 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

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.

Passed the Senate the 1st day of March, 1995.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1995.

Speaker of the House of Representatives