

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1045

By: Paulk

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; stating legislative findings and declarations; re-creating the Oklahoma Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired; providing for membership, qualifications, vacancies, officers and meetings; providing for travel reimbursement, authority to hire a Director and staff, obtain offices and funding; specifying powers and duties of the Commission; authorizing the acceptance of certain gifts, grants and funds; creating the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Revolving Fund; specifying purpose of and expenditures from such fund; requiring cooperation between the Commission and other state agencies for certain purpose; 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 2401.1 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Legislature finds and declares that the deaf and hearing impaired citizens of this state have special and unique problems

including limitations on ability to communicate, academic achievement, occupational attainment, emotional adjustment and social interrelations. The Legislature further finds and declares that there is a need to create a permanent agency to coordinate the efforts of the various organizations concerned with the deaf and hearing impaired and to serve as a central repository of information on resources available to hearing impaired individuals and other interested persons relating to the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of impaired hearing as well as the training, education, job placement and social services available to persons of impaired hearing.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2401.2 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby re-created, to continue until July 1, 2001, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired. The Commission shall be composed of nine (9) members who have a knowledge and understanding, professionally or individually, of the problems of the deaf and hearing impaired. Two of the members shall be appointed by the Governor from lists provided by organizations and associations representing the deaf and hearing impaired persons. Members shall be appointed by the Governor for a term concurrent with that of the Governor or until their successors are appointed and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor for the remainder of the term of the person whose place is to be filled. The Commission shall elect from its members a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary who shall hold their respective offices for one (1) year or until their successors are appointed and qualified.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2401.3 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Each member of the Oklahoma Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired shall receive travel reimbursement pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act while in the actual performance of the duties imposed upon the Commission by law. The Commission shall be convened by its chairperson no less than four (4) times per year. The Commission is authorized to appoint a Director and such assistants as necessary to carry out the functions of the Commission. The Department of Human Services shall furnish offices to the Commission and its staff as well as logistical and clerical assistance as requested by the Commission and shall provide for funding of the Commission's operating expenses.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2401.4 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To promote the coordination of efforts and services on behalf of the deaf and hearing impaired;
2. To inventory the various services available for meeting the problems of the deaf and hearing impaired and assist persons in locating and securing such services;
3. To collect studies, compile bibliographies, gather information and conduct research with respect to the education, training, counseling, placement and social and economic adjustment of the deaf and hearing impaired and with respect to the causes, diagnosis, treatment and methods of prevention of impaired hearing;
4. To keep informed of and cooperate with federal, state and local programs available for the improvement of the general welfare of deaf and hearing impaired persons;
5. To appoint advisory or special committees when appropriate for in-depth investigations and study of particular problems and to receive reports of findings and recommendations; and

6. To make recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate with respect to modifications in existing services or establishment of additional services for deaf or hearing impaired persons.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2401.5 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired is authorized to accept gifts, grants or funds from any source for use in furthering the purposes of the Commission.

B. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired to be designated the "Deaf and Hearing Impaired Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Commission from any gifts, grants or any other sources. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Commission for the purposes specified by law. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2401.6 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, in carrying out its functions, shall cooperate with the appropriate commissions and state agencies having authority related to the problems of the deaf and hearing impaired persons. These agencies shall cooperate with the Commission in carrying out its functions. The Department of Human Services may establish and operate a program to provide interpreter services to deaf and hearing impaired

citizens of the state, under rules adopted by the Commission for Human Services. The cost of operating such program shall be paid from the State Assistance Fund.

SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

SECTION 8. 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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