

SHORT TITLE: Oklahoma Health Care Authority Act; operational requirements; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE BILL NO. 363

By: Cain

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Act; amending Section 1, Chapter 332, O.S.L. 1993 (63 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 5003), which relates to legislative declaration and purpose; modifying purpose; exempting the Oklahoma Health Care Authority from any hiring freeze until certain date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 332, O.S.L. 1993 (63 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 5003), is amended to read as follows:

Section 5003. A. The Legislature recognizes that the state is a major purchaser of health care services, and the increasing costs of ~~such~~ health care services are posing, and will continue to pose, a great financial burden on the state. It is the policy of the state to provide comprehensive health care as an employer to state employees and officials and their dependents, and to those who are dependent on the state for necessary medical care. It is imperative that the state develop effective and efficient health care delivery systems and strategies for procuring health care services in order

for the state to continue to purchase the most comprehensive health care possible.

B. It is therefore incumbent upon the Legislature to establish the Oklahoma Health Care Authority whose purpose shall be to:

1. Purchase state and education employees' health care benefits and Medicaid benefits;

2. Study all state-purchased and state-subsidized health care, alternative health care delivery systems and strategies for the procurement of health care services in order to maximize cost containment in these programs while ensuring access to quality health care; and

3. Make recommendations aimed at minimizing the financial burden which health care poses for the state, its state employees and its charges officials and their dependents, and those who are dependent on the state for necessary medical care, while at the same time allowing the state to provide the most comprehensive health care possible.

C. In order to effectuate the purposes specified in subsection B of this section, the Authority is hereby exempt from any hiring freeze until July 1, 1996.

SECTION 2. 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.

45-1-0847

CJ