ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1299

By: Eddins, Voskuhl and Pettigrew of the House

and

Cain of the Senate

(children - resource and referral system - codification - effective date - 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 607.3 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Department of Human Services shall establish with federal or state monies, appropriated or otherwise available for that purpose, a statewide Child Care Resource and Referral System. The system shall be established pursuant to contracts administered by the Department. The Resource and Referral System shall:

1. Assist parents with locating child care providers who meet individual family needs, and in particular, parents moving from public assistance to employment and self-sufficiency;

2. Consult with parents on indicators of quality care and how to evaluate and choose care, including licensed and legally-exempt care;

3. Identify child care needs and recruit providers, including for the care of children with disabilities, infants, school-age children and children whose parents work nontraditional hours;

4. Assist employers with child care needs assessments, seminars for employees and in evaluating child care benefits options;

5. Provide technical assistance and training for caregivers;

6. Provide local Chambers of Commerce with data on availability of child care for economic development purposes with new or prospective employees;

7. Support existing child care providers in accepting children with special needs;

8. Assist prospective child care providers with materials and consultation on child care administration, financial management and programming; and

9. Increase community awareness of the need for available, affordable, quality child care.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. 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 House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 1997.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1997.

President of the Senate