

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1386

By: Seikel and Toure of the
House

and

Cain of the Senate

An Act relating to poor persons; amending Section 1,
Chapter 346, O.S.L. 1995 (56 O.S. Supp. 1996,
Section 230.1), which relates to the Oklahoma
Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative; updating and
clarifying language; and providing an effective
date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 346, O.S.L.
1995 (56 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 230.1), is amended to read as
follows:

Section 230.1 A. ~~This act~~ Sections 230.1 through 230.18 of
Title 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be known and may be cited as
the "Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative".

B. The Department of Human Services shall carry out the
projects and programs specified in the Oklahoma Welfare Self
Sufficiency Initiative and shall implement the provisions of the
Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative to the fullest extent
permitted by law in accordance with the terms and conditions granted
by the federal government.

C. The Department of Human Services shall:

1. Submit any federal waiver requests and apply for and otherwise seek to obtain any amendments and exemptions from federal statutes and rules as necessary to implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative not later than January 1, 1996;

2. Expedite the acquisition of any federal waivers necessary to implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative through amendments, combined waivers, requests and in any other such manner authorized by federal law and rules; and

3. Work in close and continuous coordination with appropriate federal officials and prepare and submit completely and in a timely manner all forms and data required by such federal officials to implement the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative.

D. Upon receipt of approval of any waivers, exemptions or amendments from the federal Department of Health and Human Services or prior to implementation of any of the programs provided for in the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative, the Commission for Human Services shall promulgate rules for developing any projects and programs provided for in the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative.

E. 1. The Department of Human Services is directed to file with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate a copy of each waiver application or request for amendment or exemption filed with the federal government, copies of correspondence to and from the federal government explaining and elaborating upon said applications, and final documentation of any waivers, amendments, and exemptions granted by the federal government.

2. On February 1 of each year, the Department shall provide a written report on each project specified in the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative to the Legislature and the Governor which identifies:

- a. the status of the waiver,
- b. number of active participants, and
- c. demonstration projects which will be completed prior to the beginning of the next regular legislative session. The Department shall include in the report required by this section recommendations for statewide implementation of any such demonstration projects.

F. 1. Each provision of the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative, shall, regardless of whether it includes a specific provision for federal approval, be subject to federal approval, if required, and federal financial participation.

2. If the state fails to receive a waiver for any provision of the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative or would otherwise fail to receive federal financial participation in the implementation of such provision, then such provision shall not be implemented, except as otherwise required by the Legislature, or unless and until the full amount required for implementation of the provision without federal participation is appropriated by the Legislature.

G. 1. Except as specifically provided by the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative, the Department shall implement each project and program required by the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative as a demonstration project.

2. Except as otherwise provided by the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative, the Department shall not implement on a statewide basis any of the demonstration projects or programs provided for in the Oklahoma Welfare Self Sufficiency Initiative unless specifically authorized to do so by the Legislature.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of March, 1997.

Speaker

of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1997.

President

of the Senate