

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2837

By: Seikel

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Department of Human Services;
requiring the Department in collaboration with
other state entities to develop a strategic
development plan for child care facilities in
Oklahoma; providing for a database information
system; providing for contents; requiring report;
providing for contents; providing for codification;
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 405.1 of Title 10 unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Department of Human Services shall, in collaboration
with other appropriate agencies, develop a comprehensive strategic
development plan for child care facilities by December 31, 1998.

B. Such comprehensive plan shall:

1. Set an annual goal to increase the number of new child care
programs and expand capacity to meet the identified need for child
care;

2. Describe methods to reduce existing barriers to accessing
child care financing;

3. Offer plans to develop new child care capital financing mechanisms;

4. Describe methods to integrate existing capital financing programs;

5. Develop a public information campaign to attract potential providers to offer child care services; and

6. Propose such other activities deemed appropriate for increasing the supply and quality of child care in this state.

C. As part of the development of the comprehensive plan:

1. The Department shall, from funds available, develop the child care facility information system, a database including data on existing early childhood providers serving children including, but not limited to, regulated child care providers, Head Start and prekindergarten programs. The information shall include, but not be limited to, the types and number of programs, program location including county, the ages served, the capacity of the programs, the hours and calendar of program operations and rates.

2. County specific information on the number of children currently served shall be compared to the local projected need from demographic information and waiting lists maintained for child care programs, local district estimates of child care needs for participants in the job opportunities and basic skills training program, and families eligible for child care subsidies.

3. Information shall also be collected on funding sources and amounts for eligible families, for health and safety grants, for start-up and capital grants, for child care resource and referral programs, and any other public funding which is directed at increasing the number and size of early childhood programs. Any known private funding sources directed at the purpose of capital, start-up or subsidies to providers shall also be included.

4. The Department shall also collect information on the technical assistance activities presently available to potential and existing child care providers.

5. On or before February 1, 1999, the Department shall submit a preliminary report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate detailing:

- a. a compilation of the existing data designated in this section,
- b. information available on private sector interest, involvement or plans for development of child care in this state, and
- c. information from child care resource and referral programs about the numbers of inquiries received from parents and businesses.

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.

46-2-9192

KSM