

ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT
TO
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1597

By: Fisher, Williams, Dunlap
and Williamson of the
Senate

and

Boyd and Thornbrugh of
the House

(schools - Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness
Act - codification - effective date -
emergency)

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the stricken title, enacting clause and
entire bill and insert

"(children - Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Act -
Advisory Board - tax-exempt status - not-for-
profit corporation - codification - effective
date -
emergency)

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640 of Title 10, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Smart
Start Partnership Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.1 of Title 10, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The purpose of the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Act is to:

1. Create a system of school readiness that prepares all children to enter school healthy and ready to learn;

2. Develop a public-private partnership entity to augment community efforts with the planning, financing and delivery of early childhood services; and

3. Foster the development of a statewide system of school readiness programs for children from birth to five (5) years of age through innovative collaboration between the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.2 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

For purposes of this act:

1. "School readiness programs" refers to an assortment of social services, child care arrangements, health care services, and family literacy programs that enhance a child's ability to succeed in school;

2. "Early childhood education" refers to the acquisition of skills and abilities that enhance a child's development and capacity to learn;

3. "Early childhood education programs" refers to public and private prekindergarten and other organized educational programs;

4. "Local partnership" refers to a new or existing community-based council composed of individuals concerned with issues surrounding school readiness and early childhood education including but not limited to educators, state agency and nonprofit agency representatives, members of the clergy, parents and members of the business community; and

5. "Advisory Board" refers to the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Advisory Board.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.3 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2006, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Advisory Board. The Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Advisory Board shall consist of twenty (20) members, as follows:

1. Three members who represent business or corporate entities, one to be appointed by the Governor, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2. Two members who represent charitable foundations, one each to be appointed by the Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3. One member who is a member of the clergy to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

4. Two members who are parents of young children, one each to be appointed by the Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

5. One member who is a tribal representative to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6. Nine members who represent the public sector of state government as follows:

- a. State Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee,
- b. State Commissioner of Health or designee,
- c. Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services or designee,
- d. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce or designee,
- e. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries or designee,

- f. Director of the Department of Human Services or designee,
- g. Director of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority or designee,
- h. Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth or designee, and
- i. Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation Services or designee;

7. One member who is President of the Oklahoma Child Care Association; and

8. One member who serves as the Head Start State Collaboration Project Director.

B. Members of the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Advisory Board appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives or President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall serve initial terms as follows:

1. The members initially appointed by the Governor shall serve until November 1, 2002;

2. The members initially appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall serve until November 1, 2003; and

3. The members initially appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve until November 1, 2004.

C. As the terms of the initially appointed members expire, the terms of subsequently appointed members shall expire every four (4) years on November 1.

D. A vacancy in a position shall be filled in the same manner as provided in subsection A of this section.

E. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall convene an organizational meeting of the Advisory Board no later than October 1, 2000, at which time the Advisory Board shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson and may adopt rules governing its operation. A majority of members present shall constitute a quorum

and any action of the Advisory Board must be approved by a majority of the members present.

F. Members appointed pursuant to the provisions of subsection A of this section shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.4 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The goal of the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Advisory Board shall be to promote and improve school readiness among children from birth to five (5) years of age.

B. Utilizing existing state agency resources, the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Advisory Board shall:

1. Review and evaluate the state's system of school readiness and early childhood education programs;

2. Identify research findings and any related state task force or study recommendations on approaches to better preparing children for school and identify reliable indicators of school readiness;

3. Review the mandates, programs and budgets of all state agencies which impact infants and young children, and make recommendations on changes necessary to provide more effective school readiness services and methods to maximize federal, state, local, and private revenue;

4. Identify and make recommendations on methods of innovative, flexible funding, including but not limited to interagency funding, joint funding pools, interagency reimbursement, and grants to communities;

5. Facilitate the development and provision of high quality early childhood school readiness services by fostering local partnerships in Oklahoma communities;

6. Review school readiness improvement proposals submitted by local partnerships and make recommendations for funding of approved proposals to the Board of Directors of the not-for-profit corporation authorized in Section 7 of this act; and

7. Produce an annual Oklahoma Plan for School Readiness and a progress report on Advisory Board activities for submission to the Governor and Legislature beginning October 1, 2001, and every year thereafter.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.5 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. All school readiness improvement proposals approved by the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Advisory Board shall be awarded funding by the Board of Directors of the not-for-profit corporation authorized in Section 7 of this act in the amount recommended by the Partnership if funds are available; provided, the Board of Directors may return a funding recommendation to the Advisory Board for clarification of programmatic or funding issues.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature that:

1. Every Seven Dollars (\$7.00) of state funding dedicated to the implementation of the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Act be matched by Three Dollars (\$3.00) of private funding; and

2. School readiness improvement proposals submitted by local partnerships demonstrate that the local community is financially committed to the success of the improvement plan by securing at least five percent (5%) of the value of the requested funding in real or in-kind contributions by local organizations.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.6 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby authorized the creation of a not-for-profit corporation to raise funds and to assist in the implementation of the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Act.

B. The board of directors of the corporation authorized in subsection A of this section is authorized to select a name for the corporation. The board shall choose its own chairperson.

C. After proper incorporation, the not-for-profit corporation is authorized and directed to secure tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3)).

D. In addition to funds received from the general public or other public and private sources, the not-for-profit corporation may receive funds from state agencies at such times and in such amounts as may be appropriated by the Legislature or made available to the corporation from state agencies from their sources of revenue.

E. Costs to underwrite activities related to the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Act may be borne from revenues of the not-for-profit corporation.

F. Upon the incorporation, the not-for-profit corporation shall be authorized to hire staff and name steering committees as necessary to assist in implementing the Oklahoma Smart Start Partnership Act; provided, that during the first two (2) years of incorporation no more than ten percent (10%) of funds received may be expended on administrative activities. Thereafter, no more than six percent (6%) of funds received may be expended on administrative activities.

G. After incorporation, the not-for-profit corporation shall make provision for a yearly audit and shall submit a copy of the audit along with a report of its activities to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

SECTION 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2000.

SECTION 9. 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 17th day of April, 2000.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2000.

President of the Senate