

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL 491

By: Williams of the Senate

and

Boyd of the House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 10-105.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 392, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 10-105.3), which relates to parent education programs; modifying eligibility criteria for certain program; modifying filing requirement of certain report; creating the Task Force on Early Childhood Services; providing for appointments, officers, meetings, quorum, duties, compensation, reimbursement, and staff support; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 10-105.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 392, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 10-105.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 10-105.3 A. The State Board of Education shall develop and implement a program of parent education which provides practical information and guidance to parents regarding the development of language, cognition, social skills, and motor development of young children. The program shall be phased in so that services will be available to parents of children under age ~~three (3)~~ four (4) years in school districts identified by the Board as having the greatest numbers of children whose education is considered to be a high challenge. As funds are available, beginning with the 1992-93 school year, the Board shall expand the program so that services

will be available to the school sites identified by the Board as having the greatest percentage of children qualifying for the free or reduced school lunch program. The Board shall expand the program each year if funding is available to ensure that a parent education program is available to all school districts.

B. The program shall emphasize the importance of the parents of children as a child's first and most influential teachers. The parent education programs currently offered in other states should be examined as possible models for the Oklahoma program.

C. ~~Beginning with the effective date of this act, for each of the next two fiscal years the~~ The State Board of Education shall contract with an organization to provide for technical assistance for a field operations center to coordinate the Oklahoma Parents as Teachers Program. To be eligible for a technical assistance contract, an applicant must be an affiliate member of a national organization or association providing parent education training, must have at least two years' experience in implementation of a Parents as Teachers Program, and must have at least one staff member with a degree above the baccalaureate level who has expertise in Child Development or Early Childhood Education. Technical assistance shall include assistance with training on program organization, management, implementation, and fundraising techniques for groups seeking to implement Parents as Teachers Programs and existing Parents as Teachers Programs throughout the state. The technical assistance provider shall compile a report, utilizing data collected from the State Department of Education and the Child Service Demonstration Center, on the status of Parents as Teachers Programs in Oklahoma, including the locations and descriptions of the programs, the sources of funding for the programs, and pending applications for funding. The report shall be filed with the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education by April 1, ~~1995~~ of each year.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created, to continue until December 31, 1999 the Task Force on Early Childhood Services.

B. The composition of the Task Force shall be as follows:

1. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee;

2. The State Secretary of Education, or designee;

3. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, or designee;

4. One member from the Office of Child Care to be appointed by the Director of the Department of Human Services;

5. One member from the Child Care Resource and Referral Network to be appointed by the Director of the Department of Human Services;

6. One member representing the Headstart program to be appointed by the Director of the Department of Commerce;

7. One member representing the Oklahoma Parents as Teachers program to be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;

8. Three (3) members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a parent of a young child;

9. Three (3) members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall represent a public school district;

10. Three (3) members to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall represent a charitable organization with a history of supporting early childhood programs; and

C. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name the chair of the Task Force. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall name the vice-chair.

D. Required appointments shall be made on or before August 1, 1999. The first meeting of the Task Force shall be convened at the

call of the chair. A majority of the members appointed shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of any business.

E. Staff assistance shall be provided by the Oklahoma State Senate staff and the Oklahoma House of Representatives staff.

F. The Task Force shall review services available to children and make recommendations on how best to leverage state dollars and coordinate state programs such as Parents as Teachers with other services available to ensure all children enter school ready to learn.

G. The Task Force shall submit a report of findings and recommendations on or before December 31, 1999, to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, and involved agencies.

H. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by the legislative body in which they serve for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. State agency employees who are members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act;

3. All other Task Force members shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. 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.

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