

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1767

By: Ervin, Pope (Clay),
Braddock, Turner and Covey
of the House

and

Robinson of the Senate

An Act relating to public health; authorizing the State Department of Health to award grants for Telemedicine Service Programs to certain hospitals or health care facilities; stating goals; providing for use of funds; requiring funds to be matched; providing eligibility criteria; directing the State Board of Health to promulgate certain rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; 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 1-2703 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for Telemedicine Services Programs, the State Department of Health is authorized to award one or more competitive grants to public hospitals or health care facilities for programs which deliver medical and other health care services through a telemedicine system. The goal of the grant program shall be to assist in the development of telemedicine programs which in turn have the effect of:

1. Empowering rural health facilities;
2. Expanding the range of services to rural areas;
3. Providing greater access to patients in rural areas;
4. Reducing the number of patient transfers to urban areas;
5. Enhancing rural economic development; and
6. Reducing the costs of medical care.

B. Funding may cover the cost of equipment, software, or the connection costs of either upstream or downstream users.

C. All grants shall be matched with funds from the grant recipient or in-kind contributions.

D. In order to be eligible for a grant, the program shall:

1. State clear and measurable program goals and objectives;
2. Provide verifiable data on how the program is meeting its stated goals and objectives; and
3. Include an evaluation component including an annual written self-evaluation.

E. The State Board of Health shall promulgate rules as necessary to administer the Telemedicine Service Program grants and the process by which the grant funding shall be allocated.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

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 18th day of May, 1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 18th day of May, 1999.

President of the Senate