

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 2474

By: Lindley, Gilbert, McCarter,  
Collins, Fields, Kirby and  
Easley of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

An Act relating to poor persons; creating the Independent Living Services Act; providing for legislative findings; defining terms; creating the Statewide Independent Living Council; specifying conditions; providing for duties and powers; making certain duties and powers subject to availability of funding; providing for contracting; 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 625.1 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Independent Living Services Act".

B. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that individuals with disabilities comprise a large percentage of Oklahoma's total population. Such individuals need assistance in living fuller and more independent lives. Individuals with disabilities receive assistance in independent living in the form of direct client services provided by the Department of Rehabilitation Services and in the form of independent living services as provided by centers for independent living pursuant to the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. However, as currently funded, such services are not sufficient to meet the independent living needs of individuals with disabilities. As a result, it is necessary to provide state funding to expand the services currently provided.

C. For purposes of the Independent Living Services Act:

1. "Independent living center" has the same definition as such term is defined by the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, or its implementing federal regulations; and

2. "Independent living services" has the same definition as such term is defined by the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, or its implementing federal regulations.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 625.2 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Statewide Independent Living Council which shall be established pursuant to the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, codified at 29 U.S.C., Section 701 et seq., as amended.

B. The duties of the Council shall be those as set forth in the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

C. Subject to the availability of state funds other than those appropriated to the Department of Rehabilitation Services for the purpose of providing independent living services to its clients, and in accordance with the State Plan for Independent Living, the Department of Rehabilitation Services, in joint effort with the Statewide Independent Living Council, may contract with independent living centers for the purpose of providing independent living services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2000.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of May, 2000.

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Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 25th day of May, 2000.

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President of the Senate