

An Act relating to the State Department of Rehabilitation Services; amending 10 O.S. 2001, Section 1419, which relates to the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf; modifying employment authority of the Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation Services; defining certain professionals and other staffing; providing for powers and duties of the Director; providing for duties and compensation of employees; providing for benefits for certain specialist; making certain personnel eligible for membership in the Teachers' Retirement System; providing for adoption of personnel policies; requiring rulemaking by a certain date; establishing requirements for professional development programs; authorizing certain disciplinary action; making hearings subject to the Administrative Procedures Act; making certain action not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act; providing for notification regarding certain contracts; removing out-of-date language; authorizing the selection of a bargaining unit; requiring recognition by the Commission; providing for trials de novo and for appeals for dismissal or nonrenewal of certain contracts; providing procedures; providing exceptions; providing for petitions, hearings and other proceedings; providing for application of certain principals; providing for written findings; requiring certain judgments; authorizing extensions; making certain decision binding; specifying exceptions; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Sections 840-5.3 and 840-5.12, which relate to the Oklahoma Personnel Act; modifying categories of employees; making certain superintendents unclassified state employees; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.