

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE BILL 1615

By: Helton

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2001, Section 430, which relates to the STARS child care component; requiring the Department of Human Services to annually survey and adjust specified rates; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 430, is amended to read as follows:

Section 430. As an augmentation to the child care component of the Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) and to other programs providing for child care assistance benefits, the Department of Human Services and other state entities shall:

1. Evaluate and increase as needed the child care reimbursement rate for both metropolitan and rural areas of the state with special emphasis on those child care providers who serve:

- a. infants and toddlers 0-24 months of age,
- b. children with disabilities, and
- c. clients needing weekend, evening or shift child care.

In establishing such reimbursement rates, the Department of Human Services shall annually conduct a market survey of child care rates and shall provide that child care centers in the five (5) counties with the highest ratings among centers classified as regular level shall be reimbursed at the same level as centers classified as high level;

2. In order to enhance child care services, encourage stronger private/public partnerships at the community level in order to

address unmet child care needs and provide training and continued education for child care providers;

3. Generally expedite the child care assistance application, eligibility determination and approval process;

4. Provide for additional grants, stipends, scholarships for training and upgrading personnel and equipment with specific emphasis on strengthening child care development in rural areas;

5. Assist in development of transportation services to transport children to child care and parents to work or school; and

6. Promote mutual respect and understanding between the Department and other entities involved in child care.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2002.

48-2-2117

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