

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE BILL 37

By: Fisher

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act; providing short title; stating purposes; stating goal of the Legislature; defining terms; creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Advisory Board; providing for membership of Advisory Board; setting term length for certain members; providing for organizational meeting by certain date; providing for election of chair and vice-chair; providing for staff assistance; requiring presence of a quorum for Advisory Board to conduct business; authorizing travel reimbursement for members; stating duties of Advisory Board; directing the Department of Human Services to provide project coordinator for certain projects; stating duties of project coordinators; 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 640 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.1 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The purpose of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act is to facilitate community collaboration of efforts and services that will prepare children to enter school healthy and ready to succeed. The further purpose of this act is to inform parents and caregivers of the importance and benefits of reading to children for at least fifteen (15) minutes each day.

It is the goal of the Legislature that by May 1, 2007, ninety percent (90%) of all third-grade students will be reading at or above grade-level by the end of the third-grade school year.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.2 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

For purposes of this act:

1. "Advisory Board" refers to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Advisory Board;

2. "Child care" includes formal and informal arrangements, including but not limited to child care centers, day care homes, private providers, and relative care;

3. "Early childhood education programs" include public and private prekindergarten and other organized educational programs, including Head Start programs, for children under the age of five (5) years;

4. "Health care" includes prenatal care, immunizations, health screenings, well-baby care, nutrition services, and other preventive mental health and health maintenance care measures; and

5. "School readiness programs" include but are not limited to child care, early childhood education, health care, social services, and family literacy programs that enhance a child's ability to succeed in school.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.3 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2007, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Advisory Board. The Advisory Board shall consist of twenty-one (21) members, as follows:

1. Three members who represent business or corporate entities, one to be appointed by the Governor, one to be appointed by the

President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2. Two members who represent charitable foundations, one to be appointed by the Governor, one to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

3. One member who is a member of the clergy or represents a faith-based organization to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

4. One member who is a tribal representative to be appointed by the Governor;

5. One member who represents providers of child care services to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6. One member who is a parent of a child under the age of eight (8) years to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

7. One member who is a parent of a child with disabilities to be appointed by the Governor;

8. One member who represents an organization of publicly-funded preschool programs and is experienced in collaborative community partnership development to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

9. One member who is a teacher in a public school and is certified in early childhood education to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

10. Nine members who represent the public sector of state government as follows:

- a. State Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee,
- b. State Commissioner of Health or designee,
- c. Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services or designee,

- d. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce or designee,
- e. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries or designee,
- f. Director of the Department of Human Services or designee,
- g. Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority or designee,
- h. Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth or designee, and
- i. Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation Services or designee.

B. Members of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Advisory Board appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, or President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall serve initial terms as follows:

1. The members initially appointed by the Governor shall serve until November 1, 2003;

2. The members initially appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve until November 1, 2004; and

3. The members initially appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall serve until November 1, 2005.

C. As the terms of the initially appointed members expire, the terms of subsequently appointed members shall expire every four (4) years on November 1.

D. A vacancy in a position shall be filled in the same manner as regular appointments as provided in subsection A of this section.

E. The Director of the Department of Human Services shall convene an organizational meeting of the Advisory Board no later than October 1, 2001, at which time the Advisory Board shall elect a chair and vice-chair and may establish procedures governing its operation. Staff assistance for the Advisory Board shall be

provided by the Department of Human Services. The presence of twelve Advisory Board members shall constitute a quorum which shall be required before conducting any business. Any action of the Advisory Board must be approved by a majority of the members present.

F. Members of the Advisory Board shall receive no compensation for serving on the Advisory Board, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. State agency employees who are members of the Advisory Board 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; and

2. All other Advisory Board 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 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.4 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

To facilitate the purposes of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Advisory Board, utilizing existing state agency resources, shall:

1. Develop a process to promote voluntary school readiness and the well-being of children and families and to support and enhance family functioning by ensuring that the basic needs of families are addressed;

2. Identify up to six pilot projects, to include both rural and urban areas of the state. Each pilot project selected by the Advisory Board shall utilize community resources and/or private capital or in-kind contributions to provide a portion of the operating expenses of the project;

3. Increase public awareness of the purposes and goal of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act;

4. Identify and make recommendations on methods of innovative, flexible funding, including but not limited to interagency funding, joint funding pools, interagency reimbursement, and grants to communities;

5. Facilitate the development and provision of high quality early childhood school readiness services by fostering community partnerships;

6. Develop innovative programs to enable and empower both parents to play an active role in enhancing their child's school readiness;

7. Review school readiness improvement proposals submitted by community partnerships for approval of funding requests; and

8. Submit a plan for school readiness to include a progress report on Advisory Board activities to the Governor and Legislature beginning February 1, 2002, and every year thereafter.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 640.5 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Subject to the availability of funds, the Department of Human Services shall provide a project coordinator for each pilot project identified by the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Advisory Board. The project coordinator shall:

1. Identify community resources that are available or become available to enhance children's school readiness, including resources available through any faith-based organization;

2. Facilitate collaborative partnerships between identified resources;

3. Conduct a needs assessment to determine community resources needed to achieve school readiness goals in the community;

4. Serve as a referral resource to assist families with children in identifying services for which they might qualify;

5. Conduct and/or coordinate public education and awareness activities;

6. Solicit and coordinate community volunteer efforts; and

7. Develop a project plan and grant proposal to be submitted to the Advisory Board for consideration.

SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

SECTION 8. 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.

48-1-97

KDB

6/12/2015 11:11:29 AM