

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE BILL HB1779

By: Smaligo

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to aging services; providing legislative intent; creating Joint Legislative Study Committee on the Creation of a Department on Aging; providing for purpose and duties; providing for appointment for members; providing for officers; providing for meetings; providing for staffing; requiring a report; providing for reimbursement; providing for codification; 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 3500 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the following facts concerning the increase in the numbers of older citizens across the nation and state:

1. It is projected that by the year 2030, the number of older Americans who are sixty-five (65) years of age and older will exceed fifty-two million (52,000,000), representing the fastest growing segments of society;

2. In Oklahoma, the number of senior citizens has grown dramatically, exhibiting a growth rate factor of eighteen and two-tenths percent (18.2%) from 1980 to 2000 for those persons sixty (60) years of age and older; and

3. It is projected by the year 2020, that one in six Oklahomans will be at least sixty-five (65) years of age with additional projections of this group almost doubling by 2030.

B. The Oklahoma Legislature also recognizes the importance of promoting a high quality of life standard for all Oklahomans, including Oklahoma's senior citizens and supporting sound administrative and fiscal policies, especially in times when severe budget crises exist, by promoting greater cost efficiencies regarding the delivery of programs and services to all Oklahomans and Oklahoma's senior population.

C. There is hereby created the Joint Legislative Study Committee on the Creation of a Department on Aging.

D. The purpose of the Committee shall be to study, investigate, examine and analyze issues relating to the creation of a Department on Aging. Specifically the Committee shall:

1. a. identify existing agencies having jurisdictional authority over services to the aging,
- b. examine the responsibilities of the identified agencies having jurisdiction over programs related to services for the aging,
- c. identify duplication of services and inefficient operations,
- d. identify the needs for services of Oklahoma's aging population, and
- e. determine whether a department on aging would better serve the needs of Oklahoma's aging population, as well as be a more efficient use of Oklahoma's limited resources;

2. If a Department on Aging is determined to better meet the needs of Oklahoma's aging community and is cost efficient:

- a. develop a Department on Aging model,
- b. identify existing state programs for the aging which should be within the jurisdiction of the Department,

- c. list Oklahoma statutes which will need to be amended or repealed for implementing a Department on Aging, and
- d. identify new programs which should be implemented by a Department on Aging to better serve Oklahoma's aging population;

3. Study and make recommendations concerning any other area or issue related to the creation of a Department on Aging and such other areas concerning the elderly as deemed necessary by the Committee; and

4. Submit a written report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding findings and any recommendations of the Committee by November 1, 2004, pursuant to subsection H of this section.

E. The Committee shall be composed of nineteen (19) legislative members as follows: seven members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, seven members of the Oklahoma Senate shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and five legislative members appointed by the Governor.

F. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each designate a legislative member to serve as cochair of the Committee. The cochairs of the Committee shall convene a meeting of the Committee within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the appointments. The membership of the Committee shall determine a meeting schedule by majority approval of the Committee. A majority of the members present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public and shall be held in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

G. The Committee shall be staffed by the staff of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate and by any other state agency staff as deemed necessary by the Committee.

H. The work of the Committee shall be finalized no later than January 15, 2005. Any written recommendations of the Committee shall be made available to the public and delivered to each member of the Oklahoma Legislature by November 1, 2004.

I. The cochairs of the Committee may appoint subcommittees as deemed necessary from the members of the Committee for the purpose of carrying out its duties pursuant to the provisions of this section.

J. Legislative members of the Committee shall receive reimbursement from the house in which they serve pursuant to Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. 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.

49-1-6130          KSM          01/23/03