

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1854

By: Steele of the House
and
Bass of the Senate

(children - amending 10 O.S., Section 404 - Oklahoma
Child Care Facilities Licensing Act -
effective date)

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 404, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 187, O.S.L. 2004 (10 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 404), is amended to read as follows:

Section 404. A. The Department of Human Services shall appoint advisory committees of representatives of child care facilities and others to prepare minimum requirements and desirable standards for promulgation by the Commission for Human Services. A majority of any committee appointed to prepare requirements and standards for child care facilities shall be ~~representatives~~ owners or operators of licensed child care facilities.

B. Standards promulgated for residential child care facilities shall include, but not be limited to, requirements for:

1. A constructive program and services to meet the needs of each child and family;
2. Staff of good moral character and ability for child care;
3. Adequate and safe housing, sanitation, and equipment;
4. Good health care;
5. Full educational and religious opportunities;
6. Good community relationships;
7. Essential records and administrative methods; and

8. Sufficient funds for sound operation.

C. The Commission shall promulgate rules establishing minimum requirements and desirable standards as may be deemed necessary or advisable to carry out the provisions of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act.

D. Such rules shall not be promulgated until after consultation with the State Department of Health, the State Department of Education, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the State Fire Marshal, and any other agency deemed necessary by the Commission. Not less than sixty (60) days' notice, by regular mail, shall be given to all current licensees before any changes are made in such rules.

E. In order to improve the standards of child care, the Department shall also advise and cooperate with the governing bodies and staffs of child care facilities and assist the staffs thereof through advice of progressive methods and procedures and suggestions for the improvement of services.

F. The Department may participate in federal programs for day care services, and enter into agreements or plans on behalf of the state for such purpose, in accordance with federal laws and regulations.

G. Foster family homes, group homes, and day care homes that have been selected and are supervised by a licensed child care facility, and that meet the standards established for licensing pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act, may be maintained and operated on the basis of permits issued by such child care facility.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2005.

Passed the House of Representatives the 16th day of March, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the Senate