

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2659

By: Roan

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to poor persons; amending 56 O.S. 2001, Section 165, which relates to resources of recipients of public assistance; modifying amount of certain resource that is not considered available to meet the needs of recipients; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2001, Section 165, is amended to read as follows:

Section 165. A. 1. The amount of assistance which any person shall receive under the provisions of this act shall be determined with due regard to the resources, to income and need of the individual and other conditions existing in each case and in accordance with funds available and rules of the Commission for Human Services, but in no case shall it be an amount which, when added to the income of the applicant from all other sources, is more than necessary to provide such person with reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health.

2. The cash or loan value of all life insurance policies, and all revocable and irrevocable contracts for prepaid funeral benefits, as defined by Sections 6121 through 6135 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and all monies set aside in a separate account and specifically designated for funeral expenses of an applicant for and recipient of public assistance shall be considered as a resource available to meet the needs of the applicant.

However, the following accruals by the applicant for and recipient of public assistance shall not be considered:

- a. One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) cash value of the policies or revocable contracts or designated accounts or any combination thereof, provided the cash value does not exceed One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), or
- b. ~~Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00)~~ Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) plus accrued interest in an irrevocable contract, designated account or cash value in insurance policies, or ~~Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00)~~ Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) plus accrued interest in any combination of irrevocable account, designated account, or cash value in insurance policies.

3. If the recipient receives any money from the policies or revocable contracts or designated accounts before the recipient's death, the amount received shall be considered as a resource available to meet the recipient's needs, provided, that an amount not to exceed One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) from all policies may be used for prepaid burial expenses of the recipient.

B. It shall be the duty of the Commission for Human Services, in conformity with the Federal Social Security Laws and in regard to funds available, to revise and liberalize the budget as now used in ascertaining the need of any person eligible to receive assistance, and, in so doing, the increased cost of living and condition of health of such person shall be given due consideration.

C. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the limitations specified pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section shall apply to the cash or loan value of all life insurance policies and all revocable and irrevocable contracts for prepaid funeral benefits and all monies set aside in a separate

account and specifically designated for funeral expenses of an applicant for or recipient of public assistance which were entered into or created prior to July 1, 1986, and on and after July 1, 1985.

2. Any person who entered into an irrevocable life insurance policy or irrevocable contract for prepaid funeral expenses prior to July 1, 1986, which exceeds the maximum limitation specified by paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section, and who is receiving assistance on July 1, 1986, is eligible to continue to receive such assistance provided such recipient does not add to or otherwise increase such irrevocable policy or contract.

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.

50-2-9088 SD 01/17/06