

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2882

By: Steele

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to marriage; amending 43 O.S. 2001, Section 5.1, which relates to premarital counseling; adding counseling program provider and time requirement; creating the Marriage Education Account; specifying purpose and procedures regarding the account; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2001, Section 5.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5.1 A. The clerk of the district court shall reduce the fee for a marriage license as prescribed by Section 31 of Title 28 of the Oklahoma Statutes to persons who have successfully completed a premarital counseling program meeting the conditions specified by this section.

B. 1. A premarital counseling program shall be conducted by a health professional ~~or~~, an official representative of a religious institution, or a person trained by the principal authors or duly authorized agents of the principal authors of nationally recognized marriage education curriculum including, but not limited to, Prevention & Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP). Upon successful completion of the program, the counseling program provider shall issue to the persons a certificate signed by the instructor of the counseling program. The certificate shall state that the named persons have successfully completed the premarital counseling requirements. A minimum of eight (8) hours shall be necessary for successful completion of the marriage education curriculum.

2. For purposes of this subsection, the term "health professional" means a person licensed or certified by this state to practice psychiatry or psychology; a licensed social worker with experience in marriage counseling; a licensed marital and family therapist; or a licensed professional counselor.

C. 1. There is hereby created in the Department of Human Services a revolving fund to be designated the "Marriage Education Account".

2. The account shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Department of Human Services pursuant to the provisions of this section and Section 31 of Title 28 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

3. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and shall be budgeted and expended by the Department of Human Services for the purposes provided pursuant to the provisions of this section.

4. Expenditures from the account shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

D. The account shall be administered by the Department of Human Services for the provision of marriage education services.

E. 1. The Marriage Education Account shall consist of:

a. all monies received by the Department pursuant to the provisions of Section 31 of Title 28 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

b. interest attributable to investment of money in the Account.

2. The monies deposited in the Marriage Education Account shall at no time become monies of the state and shall not become part of the general budget of the Department of Human Services or any other state agency. Except as otherwise authorized by this section, no monies from the Account shall be transferred for any purpose to any

other state agency or any account of the Department of Human Services or be used for the purpose of contracting with any other state agency or reimbursing any other state agency for any expense.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

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