

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1615

By: Johnson (Constance)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; stating legislative intent; requiring the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to establish and maintain a certain program; requiring the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to submit certain waiver applications; specifying program coverage; requiring the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to promulgate certain rules; requiring periodic evaluation and recommendations; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 1-899.2 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intent of the Legislature to develop options that allow elderly and disabled individuals maximum choice in determining their living arrangements, including the choice to remain in the least restrictive environment possible. It is further the intent of the Legislature to ensure that elderly and disabled individuals have access to appropriate health care and personal assistance, regardless of their income level or choice of living arrangement.

B. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall establish and maintain a program that requires a waiver of federal law to provide an assisted living benefit to beneficiaries under the Medicaid program. The program developed pursuant to this section shall be known as the waiver program for purposes of this section.

C. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall submit any necessary waiver applications or modifications to implement the waiver program, and shall implement the waiver program only to the extent that federal financial participation is available.

D. The waiver program shall cover or supplement costs associated with the services of a licensed assisted living center as authorized and defined in Section 1-890.1 et seq. of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

E. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board shall promulgate rules as necessary to implement the waiver program that shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Eligibility requirements; and
2. Coverage and exclusions.

F. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver program and make recommendations to the Legislature for changes and improvements.

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

50-2-3297

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