

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1736

By: Peters and Tibbs of the
House

and

Ford of the Senate

An Act relating to public health and safety; amending 63 O.S. 2001, Sections 1-1961, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 249, O.S.L. 2004 and 1-1962, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 249, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2008, Sections 1-1961 and 1-1962), which relate to the Home Care Act; modifying definitions; prohibiting a home care agency from placing a supportive home assistant unless certain requirements are satisfied; providing for the promulgation of rules; requiring certain training plan; providing for content; providing for certain supervisory visits; providing for certain background checks; prohibiting the employment of certain persons; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 1-1961, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 249, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1-1961), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-1961. As used in the Home Care Act:

1. "Board" means the State Board of Health;
2. "Certification" means verification of appropriate training and competence established by the State Board of Health by rules promulgated pursuant to the Home Care Act for home health aides and home care agency administrators;

3. "Department" means the State Department of Health;

4. "Home care agency" means any sole proprietorship, partnership, association, corporation or other organization which administers, offers or provides home care services, for a fee or pursuant to a contract for such services, to clients in their place of residence. The term "home care agency" shall not include:

- a. individuals who contract with the Department of Human Services to provide personal care services, provided such individuals shall not be exempt from certification as home health aides,
- b. organizations that contract with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority as Intermediary Services Organizations (ISO) to provide federal Internal Revenue Service fiscal and supportive services to Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Supports and Services (CD-PASS) waiver program participants who have employer responsibility for hiring, training, directing and managing an individual personal care attendant, or
- c. CD-PASS waiver program employer participants;

5. "Home care services" means skilled or personal care services provided to clients in their place of residence for a fee;

6. "Home health aide" means an individual who provides personal care to clients in their temporary or permanent place of residence for a fee;

7. "Home care agency administrator" means a person who operates, manages, or supervises, or is in charge of a home care agency;

8. "Personal care" means assistance with dressing, bathing, ambulation, exercise or other personal needs; ~~and~~

9. "Skilled care" means home care services performed on a regular basis by a trained Respiratory Therapist/Technician or by a person currently licensed by this state, including but not limited to a Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, or Social Worker;

10. "Standby assistance" means supervision of client directed activities with verbal prompting and infrequent, incidental hands-on intervention only; and

11. "Supportive home assistant" means an individual employed by a home care agency who provides standby assistance to ambulatory clients, in conjunction with other companionship or homemaker services, in the temporary or permanent place of residence of the client for a fee.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 1-1962, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 249, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1-1962), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-1962. A. No home care agency as such term is defined by this act shall operate without first obtaining a license as required by the Home Care Act.

B. 1. No home care agency, except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall place an individual in the role of supportive home assistant with a client on a full-time, temporary, per diem, or other basis, unless the individual has completed agency-based supportive home assistant training taught by a registered nurse in the sections applicable to the assistance required by the client. Each supportive home assistant who successfully completes agency-based training shall demonstrate competence by testing through an independent entity approved by the State Department of Health. The requirements related to application, approval, renewal, and denial of such testing entities shall be set forth in administrative rules promulgated by the State Board of Health.

2. The home care agency shall develop a written training plan that shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- a. observation, reporting, and documentation of client status and the standby assistance or other services furnished,
- b. maintenance of a clean, safe, and healthy environment,
- c. recognizing an emergency and necessary emergency procedures,
- d. safe techniques to provide standby assistance with bathing, grooming, and toileting,

- e. assistance with meal preparation and safe food handling and storage,
- f. client rights and responsibilities and the need for respect for the client and for the privacy and property of the client, and
- g. basic infection control practices to include, at a minimum, instruction in acceptable hand hygiene techniques and the application of standard precautions.

3. Supervisory visits shall be made according to the client need, as determined by the nursing supervisor, but no less than once every six (6) months.

4. No supportive home assistant shall provide services to a client until a criminal history background check and a check of the nurse aide registry maintained by the State Department of Health is performed in accordance with Section 1-1950.1 of this title and the assistant is found to have no notations of abuse of any kind on the registry and no convictions of the crimes listed in subsection F of Section 1-1950.1 of this title.

5. No home care agency may employ a supportive home assistant listed on the Department of Human Services Community Services Worker Registry.

C. 1. No employer or contractor, except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall employ or contract with any individual as a home health aide for more than four (4) months, on a full-time, temporary, per diem or other basis, unless such individual is a licensed health professional or unless such individual has satisfied the requirements for certification and placement on the home health aide registry maintained by the State Department of Health; and

- 2. a. Any person in the employment of a home care agency as a home health aide on June 30, 1992, with continuous employment through June 30, 1993, shall be granted home health aide certification by the Department on July 1, 1993. The home care agency shall maintain responsibility for assurance of specific competencies of the home health aide and shall only assign the home

health aide to tasks for which the aide has been determined to be competent.

- b. Any home health aide employed between the dates of July 1, 1992, and June 30, 1993, shall be eligible for certification by passing a competency evaluation and testing as required by the Department.
- c. Any home health aide employed on and after July 1, 1996, shall complete any specified training, competency evaluation and testing required by the Department.

~~C.~~ D. The provisions of the Home Care Act shall not apply to:

- 1. A person acting alone who provides services in the home of a relative, neighbor or friend;
- 2. A person who provides maid services only;
- 3. A nurse service or home aide service conducted by and for the adherents to any religious denomination, the tenets of which include reliance on spiritual means through prayer alone for healing;
- 4. A person providing hospice services pursuant to the Oklahoma Hospice Licensing Act;
- 5. A nurse-midwife;
- 6. An individual, agency, or organization that contracts with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to provide services under the Home and Community-Based Waiver for persons with mental retardation or that contracts with the Department of Human Services to provide community services to persons with mental retardation; provided, that staff members and individuals providing such services shall receive a level of training, approved by the Department of Human Services, which meets or exceeds the level required pursuant to the Home Care Act. An individual, agency or organization otherwise covered under the Home Care Act shall be exempt from the act only for those paraprofessional direct care services provided under contracts referenced in this paragraph;
- 7. An individual, agency or organization that provides or supports the provision of personal care services to an individual

who performs individual employer responsibilities of hiring, training, directing and managing a personal care attendant as part of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Supports and Services (CD-PASS) waiver program. An individual, agency or organization otherwise covered under the provisions of the Home Care Act shall be exempt from the act only for those paraprofessional direct care services provided under Oklahoma Health Care Authority contracts referenced in this paragraph, but shall not be exempt from the criminal history background check required under the Home Care Act and Section 1-1950.1 of this title for other paraprofessional direct care service providers. A personal care attendant hired by a consumer under the CD-PASS program shall be exempt from certification as a home health aide, provided such personal care attendant receives the training required and approved by the Department of Human Services;

8. An individual who only provides Medicaid home- and community-based personal care services pursuant to a contract with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority; or

9. An individual who:

- a. is employed by a licensed home care agency exclusively to provide personal care services on a live-in basis,
- b. has no convictions pursuant to a criminal history investigation as provided in Section 1-1950.1 of this title,
- c. is being continuously trained by a registered nurse to provide care that is specific to the needs of the particular client receiving the care, and
- d. is supervised by a registered nurse via an on-site visit at least once each month.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate