

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

House Bill No. 2596

HOUSE BILL NO. 2596 - By: MORRISSETTE of the House and COATES AND CORN of the Senate.

An Act relating to poor persons; amending Section 7, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 2006 (56 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 1011.7), which relates to the plan to implement alternatives for long-term care; specifying content of the cash and counseling program; providing for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the
2 Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

3 Section 2 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Empower-OK Act".

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 7, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 2006 (56 O.S.
5 Supp. 2009, Section 1011.7), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 1011.7 The Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall develop and administer
7 a plan for the implementation of alternatives for long-term care. The plan shall include,
8 but not be limited to:

9 1. The continued development and funding of community-based options throughout
10 the State of Oklahoma;

1 2. The establishment of a cash and counseling program that focuses on increasing
2 personal responsibility, efficiency in utilization, and consumer satisfaction. The program
3 shall include:

4 a. provisions ensuring that existing benefits shall not be terminated or
5 decreased as a result of the development of the cash and counseling
6 program.

7 b. provisions ensuring that consumers receive a monthly budget based on
8 the needs of that individual.

9 c. authority for consumers to use the budget to obtain personal care
10 services and make home modifications to suit the needs of the
11 individual, and

12 d. counselors available to work with consumers to develop and revise
13 individual budgets;

14 3. The establishment of a program providing for state incentives to Oklahoma
15 citizens for long-term care planning; and

16 4. Stronger private/public partnerships at the community level in order to address
17 unmet patient needs.

18 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, dated 02-23-10 - DO
20 PASS, As Coauthored.