

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 HOUSE BILL 2627

By: Blackwell

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to poor persons; amending 56 O.S.
8 2011, Section 230.50, which relates to the
9 establishment of the Statewide Temporary Assistance
Responsibility System (STARS); clarifying language;
and providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2011, Section 230.50, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 230.50 A. Sections ~~4~~ 230.50 through ~~26~~ 230.73 of this
16 ~~act~~ title shall be known ~~and may be cited~~ as the "Statewide
17 Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS)".

18 B. 1. There is hereby established the Statewide Temporary
19 Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) which shall consist of
20 programs and services to be offered by the state with funds provided
21 by the temporary assistance for needy families block grant
22 authorized by Section 103 of the federal Personal Responsibility and
23 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, in
24 addition to other monies appropriated by law.

1 2. The STARS shall consist of integrated and coordinated
2 programs and services that will provide recipients with the
3 necessary tools to enable them to make the transition from reliance
4 on public assistance programs to becoming independent, self-
5 sufficient citizens who are capable of supporting themselves and
6 their families. Such programs and services include but are not
7 limited to: career guidance and employment preparation, job
8 referral, vocational and technical training, child care initiatives,
9 literacy development, adult basic education, and medical assistance.

10 3. The Oklahoma Legislature further recognizes the importance
11 of encouraging establishment of statewide, One-stop
12 Career/Employment Centers that would link existing resources and
13 federal and state programs for utilization by persons receiving
14 temporary assistance, and underemployed and unemployed persons.

15 C. The Department of Human Services shall be responsible for:

16 1. Implementing the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
17 Families Act (TANF);

18 2. Carrying out the projects and programs specified in the
19 STARS. The Department shall implement the provisions of the STARS
20 to the fullest extent permitted by law and in accordance with the
21 terms and conditions specified by the federal government;

22 3. Expediting the acquisition of any federal waivers necessary
23 to implement the provisions of STARS through amendments, combined
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1 waivers, requests and in any other such manner authorized by federal
2 law and regulations; and

3 4. Working in close and continuous coordination with
4 appropriate federal officials and preparing and submitting
5 completely and in a timely manner all forms and data required by
6 federal officials to implement STARS.

7 D. In administering the STARS, the Department shall collaborate
8 with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the Department of
9 Commerce, the State Department of Health and the State Department of
10 Education and any other state or federal agency necessary to
11 implement the provisions of the STARS.

12 E. In submitting any state plan or amendments to the state plan
13 to the federal government in order to obtain a temporary assistance
14 for needy families block grant or child care and development block
15 grant, the Department shall seek the maximum block grant funding and
16 federal contingency fund allocations that are available pursuant to
17 the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
18 Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193.

19 F. The Commission for Human Services shall promulgate rules for
20 developing any projects and programs to implement the STARS.

21 G. 1. The Department of Human Services is directed to file
22 with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President
23 Pro Tempore of the Senate a copy of any waiver application or
24 request for amendment or exemption filed with the federal

1 government, copies of correspondence to and from the federal
2 government explaining and elaborating upon said applications, and
3 final documentation of any waivers, amendments, and exemptions
4 granted by the federal government pursuant to the STARS.

5 2. On or before February 1, 1998, for the previous six-month
6 period, and on or before February 1 of each year, for the previous
7 fiscal year, the Department shall provide a written report on each
8 project and program specified in the STARS to the Legislature and
9 the Governor which identifies:

- 10 a. total number of new applications received by the
11 Department for TANF, food stamps and child care, and
12 the number of cases actually certified,
- 13 b. number of recipients who signed a personal
14 responsibility agreement pursuant to the TANF program,
- 15 c. number of cases closed by the Department and the
16 reasons for the case closures,
- 17 d. the number of persons who reapplied for benefits
18 pursuant to the TANF program after a case had been
19 closed,
- 20 e. number of recipients who completed an employability
21 assessment by level of education,
- 22 f. the total number of recipients who completed an
23 employability assessment, and the number who were
24 initially referred for:

- 1 (1) literacy assessment,
- 2 (2) adult basic education or remediation classes,
- 3 (3) job skills development or vocational training,
- 4 (4) employment,
- 5 (5) other,
- 6 g. of the total number of recipients assessed for
- 7 literacy skills, the number who scored:
 - 8 (1) at or below 6th grade level,
 - 9 (2) at 7th or 8th grade level,
 - 10 (3) at 9th or 10th grade level,
 - 11 (4) above 10th grade level,
- 12 h. number of sanctions imposed for violations of the
- 13 provisions of the STARS or rules promulgated pursuant
- 14 thereto or any other provision of law or rule relating
- 15 to receipt of benefits by a recipient and the reasons
- 16 for imposing the sanction,
- 17 i. percentage of recipients in allowable work activities,
- 18 j. number of recipients in each allowable work activity
- 19 and the length of time spent in that activity,
- 20 k. number of recipients employed by state agencies and
- 21 contract service providers,
- 22 l. number of recipients entering the workforce by
- 23 occupation types,
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- 1 m. estimated average monthly earnings for employed aid
2 recipients,
3 n. average monthly number of hours worked by recipients,
4 o. number of qualified aliens applying for assistance
5 pursuant to the STARS and number of applications
6 certified by the Department, and
7 p. such other information deemed necessary by the
8 Department.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2012.
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