

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1244

By: Lepak

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the State Department of Rehabilitation Services; creating the Jeri Cooper Act; directing State Department of Rehabilitation Services to establish a support service providers program; describing program purpose; listing services to be included in program; requiring certification and training; mandating a request-for-proposal process for awarding grants; limiting total dollar amount of grants awarded annually; authorizing expansion of program; allowing Department to solicit and accept private or public funds; creating the Support Service Providers Grant Program Fund; specifying source of fund; providing for expenditures; providing for noncodification; and providing for codification.

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

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

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Jeri Cooper Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 166.13 of Title 74, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the State Department
5 of Rehabilitation Services shall:

6 1. Establish a program to broaden the availability of support
7 service providers (SSPs) in the deaf-blind community;

8 2. Develop a mission statement for the program and promulgate
9 rules necessary to implement and administer the program;

10 3. Provide grants to SSPs and organizations that provide
11 services for deaf-blind adults or deaf-blind children and their
12 families. The services shall include but are not limited to:

13 a. transportation for doctor appointments, shopping or
14 errands,

15 b. reading mail or other correspondence,

16 c. making telephone calls,

17 d. recreation or wellness activities,

18 e. civic or religious activities,

19 f. deaf-blind meetings or events, and

20 g. occasional special events such as weddings, funerals
21 or religious ceremonies.

22 The Department may prioritize and limit the amount and scope of
23 services offered subject to funding limitations and considering the
24 needs of the deaf-blind recipients and their families;

1 4. Develop a certification requirement and training program for
2 SSPs and organizations that provide services for deaf-blind adults
3 or deaf-blind children and their families with the primary priority
4 of service to the deaf-blind recipients and their families; and

5 5. Use a request-for-proposal process to award grants to SSPs.
6 SSPs that receive grants pursuant to this section may expend the
7 grant monies for any purpose authorized in this subsection. The
8 total amount of grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not
9 exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) annually.

10 B. The structure and scope of the program established in
11 subsection A of this section may be expanded upon legislative
12 approval and funding. The program shall be aligned with other
13 initiatives of the Department to avoid duplication or overlap of
14 services or programming; however, the Department may use a
15 combination of services or programs to provide a comprehensive
16 support program for deaf-blind adults or deaf-blind children and
17 their families. The Department may solicit and accept private or
18 public funds from individuals and entities to implement and
19 administer the program.

20 C. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
21 fund for the State Department of Rehabilitation Services to be
22 designated the "Support Service Providers Grant Program Fund". The
23 fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year
24 limitations. The fund shall consist of monies appropriated to the

1 Department by the State Legislature and any other monies acquired by
2 the Department pursuant to subsection B of this section. All monies
3 accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may
4 be budgeted and expended by the Department in order to carry out the
5 duties imposed in this section. Expenditures from the Support
6 Service Providers Grant Program Fund shall be made upon warrants
7 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
8 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
9 Services for approval and payment.

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