

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 11, 2018

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE
5 BILL NO. 1244

6 By: Lepak of the House

7 and

8 Griffin of the Senate

9 **[State Department of Rehabilitation Services - Jeri
10 Cooper Act - noncodification - codification]**

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

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

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

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

19 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the State Department
20 of Rehabilitation Services shall:

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

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

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

- 4 a. transportation for doctor appointments, shopping or
- 5 errands,
- 6 b. reading mail or other correspondence,
- 7 c. making telephone calls,
- 8 d. recreation or wellness activities,
- 9 e. civic or religious activities,
- 10 f. deaf-blind meetings or events, and
- 11 g. occasional special events such as weddings, funerals
- 12 or religious ceremonies.

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

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

21 B. After establishing a program pursuant to subsection A of
22 this section and subject to the availability of funds, the
23 Department may develop a certification requirement and training
24 program for SSPs and organizations that provide services for deaf-

1 blind adults or deaf-blind children and their families with the
2 primary priority of service to the deaf-blind recipients and their
3 families.

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

14 D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
15 fund for the State Department of Rehabilitation Services to be
16 designated the "Support Service Providers Grant Program Fund". The
17 fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year
18 limitations. The fund shall consist of monies appropriated to the
19 Department by the State Legislature and any other monies acquired by
20 the Department pursuant to subsection C of this section. All monies
21 accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may
22 be budgeted and expended by the Department in order to carry out the
23 duties imposed in this section. Expenditures from the Support
24 Service Providers Grant Program Fund shall be made upon warrants

1 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
2 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
3 Services for approval and payment.

4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
5 April 11, 2018 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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