

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

HOUSE BILL 1861

By: Osborn (Leslie)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to rehabilitation services; amending 74 O.S. 2011, Section 166.7, as amended by Section 839, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (74 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 166.7), which relates to the Rehabilitation Services Disbursing Fund; requiring that certain funds be used for contracts with qualified community-based nonprofit organizations for services to older individuals that are blind; requiring that certain funds be used to fund the Older Independent Blind Program; providing that certain contracted services are dependent upon budget parameters and staffing; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2011, Section 166.7, as amended by Section 839, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (74 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 166.7), is amended to read as follows:

Section 166.7 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Commission on Rehabilitation Services, to be designated the "Rehabilitation Services Disbursing Fund" provided that the fund may be designated by fiscal year designations as the Commission may determine. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not

1 subject to fiscal year limitations. The fund shall consist of  
2 receipts from the federal government, monies appropriated to the  
3 Department of Rehabilitation Services by the State Legislature, and  
4 other receipts of the Department of Rehabilitation Services as shall  
5 be directed by the Commission for Rehabilitation Services. All  
6 monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated  
7 and may be budgeted and expended by the Commission for  
8 Rehabilitation Services as may be necessary in order to carry out  
9 the duties imposed upon the said Commission by law. Expenditures  
10 from the Rehabilitation Services Disbursing Fund shall be made upon  
11 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as  
12 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and  
13 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

14 B. The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall direct all  
15 federal and state funds received and appropriated for services to  
16 Older Individuals that are Blind (OIB) to qualified community-based  
17 nonprofit organizations accredited by the National Accreditation  
18 Council for Blind and Low Vision to administer, pursuant to  
19 contract, the wide array of services for older individuals with  
20 vision impairments including, but not limited to, assisting in  
21 correcting or modifying visual disabilities with optical vision  
22 aids, in-home training, Orientation & Mobility, Braille instruction,  
23 adaptive skills training, information and referral, peer counseling,  
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1 and other appropriate services designed to assist an older  
2 individual who is blind with daily living activities.

3 C. Funds received by the Commission for OIB Rehabilitation  
4 Services from the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration as  
5 well as the state matching funds shall, in their entirety, be used  
6 to fund the Older Independent Blind program as established in the  
7 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

8 D. Services provided by qualified Older Independent Blind  
9 contractors are dependent upon budget parameters and staffing.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

11 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
12 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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