

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 HOUSE BILL 3353

By: Pittman

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to food stamps; amending 56 O.S.
8 2011, Section 230.50, as amended by Section 1,
9 Chapter 98, O.S.L. 2018 (56 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section
10 230.50), which relates to the Statewide Temporary
11 Assistance Responsibility System (STARS); directing
12 the Department of Human Services to create program
13 allowing food stamps to be used to order groceries
14 online; and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2011, Section 230.50, as
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 98, O.S.L. 2018 (56 O.S. Supp. 2019,
17 Section 230.50), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 230.50 A. Sections 230.50 through 230.73 and 241.1
19 through 241.3 of this title shall be known and may be cited as the
20 "Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS)".

21 B. 1. There is hereby established the Statewide Temporary
22 Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) which shall consist of
23 programs and services to be offered by the state with funds provided
24 by the temporary assistance for needy families block grant

1 authorized by Section 103 of the federal Personal Responsibility and
2 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, in
3 addition to other monies appropriated by law.

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

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

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

19 1. Implementing the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
20 Families Act (TANF);

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

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

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

9 5. Continuing to explore and expand opportunities for the state
10 to pursue agreements with additional service providers including but
11 not limited to community colleges, technology centers and community
12 resources in order to provide direct referral and link recipients
13 with career and technology education and training programs.

14 D. In administering the STARS, the Department shall collaborate
15 with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the Department of
16 Commerce, the State Department of Health and the State Department of
17 Education and any other state or federal agency necessary to
18 implement the provisions of the STARS.

19 E. In submitting any state plan or amendments to the state plan
20 to the federal government in order to obtain a temporary assistance
21 for needy families block grant or child care and development block
22 grant, the Department shall seek the maximum block grant funding and
23 federal contingency fund allocations that are available pursuant to
24

1 the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
2 Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193.

3 F. The Department shall create a program for allowing food
4 stamps to be used for purchasing grocery items on the Internet to
5 the extent allowable by the United States Department of Agriculture.

6 G. The Department for Human Services shall promulgate rules for
7 developing any projects and programs to implement the STARS.

8 ~~G.~~ H. 1. The Department of Human Services is directed to file
9 with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President
10 Pro Tempore of the Senate a copy of any waiver application or
11 request for amendment or exemption filed with the federal
12 government, copies of correspondence to and from the federal
13 government explaining and elaborating upon said applications, and
14 final documentation of any waivers, amendments, and exemptions
15 granted by the federal government pursuant to the STARS.

16 2. On or before February 1, 1998, for the previous six-month
17 period, and on or before February 1 of each year, for the previous
18 fiscal year, the Department shall provide a written report on each
19 project and program specified in the STARS to the Legislature and
20 the Governor which identifies:

- 21 a. total number of new applications received by the
22 Department for TANF, food stamps and child care, and
23 the number of cases actually certified,
24

- b. number of recipients who signed a personal responsibility agreement pursuant to the TANF program,
- c. number of cases closed by the Department and the reasons for the case closures,
- d. the number of persons who reapplied for benefits pursuant to the TANF program after a case had been closed,
- e. number of recipients who completed an employability assessment by level of education,
- f. the total number of recipients who completed an employability assessment, and the number who were initially referred for:
- (1) literacy assessment,
 - (2) adult basic education or remediation classes,
 - (3) job skills development or vocational training,
 - (4) employment,
 - (5) other,
- g. of the total number of recipients assessed for literacy skills, the number who scored:
- (1) at or below 6th grade level,
 - (2) at 7th or 8th grade level,
 - (3) at 9th or 10th grade level,
 - (4) above 10th grade level,

- 1 h. number of sanctions imposed for violations of the
2 provisions of the STARS or rules promulgated pursuant
3 thereto or any other provision of law or rule relating
4 to receipt of benefits by a recipient and the reasons
5 for imposing the sanction,
6 i. percentage of recipients in allowable work activities,
7 j. number of recipients in each allowable work activity
8 and the length of time spent in that activity,
9 k. number of recipients employed by state agencies and
10 contract service providers,
11 l. number of recipients entering the workforce by
12 occupation types,
13 m. estimated average monthly earnings for employed aid
14 recipients,
15 n. average monthly number of hours worked by recipients,
16 o. number of qualified aliens applying for assistance
17 pursuant to the STARS and number of applications
18 certified by the Department, and
19 p. such other information deemed necessary by the
20 Department.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

22
23 57-2-9949 JW 01/07/20
24