

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

SENATE BILL 1044

By: Thompson and Hall of the  
Senate

and

Wallace and Hilbert of the  
House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to support service providers;  
amending Section 2, Chapter 141, O.S.L. 2018 (74 O.S.  
Supp. 2020, Section 166.13), which relates to program  
to broaden availability of support service providers  
in the deaf-blind community; transferring program to  
the Department of Human Services; removing certain  
condition on implementation of program; decreasing  
limit on total amount of grants; renumbering Section  
2, Chapter 141, O.S.L. 2018 (74 O.S. Supp. 2020,  
Section 166.13), as last amended by Section 1 of this  
act, which relates to program to broaden availability  
of support service providers in the deaf-blind  
community; providing an effective date; and declaring  
an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 141, O.S.L.  
2018 (74 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 166.13), is amended to read as  
follows:

1       Section 166.13. A. ~~Subject to the availability of funds, the~~  
2 ~~State Department of Rehabilitation Services~~ The Department of Human  
3 Services shall:

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

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

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

11           a. transportation for doctor appointments, shopping or  
12 errands,

13           b. reading mail or other correspondence,

14           c. making telephone calls,

15           d. recreation or wellness activities,

16           e. civic or religious activities,

17           f. deaf-blind meetings or events, and

18           g. occasional special events such as weddings, funerals  
19 or religious ceremonies.

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

23       4. Use a request-for-proposal process to award grants to SSPs.  
24 SSPs that receive grants pursuant to this section may expend the

1 grant monies for any purpose authorized in this subsection. The  
2 total amount of grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not  
3 exceed ~~Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00)~~ Two Hundred  
4 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) annually.

5 B. After establishing a program pursuant to subsection A of  
6 this section and subject to the availability of funds, the  
7 Department may develop a certification requirement and training  
8 program for SSPs and organizations that provide services for deaf-  
9 blind adults or deaf-blind children and their families with the  
10 primary priority of service to the deaf-blind recipients and their  
11 families.

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

22 D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving  
23 fund for the ~~State Department of Rehabilitation Services~~ Department  
24 of Human Services to be designated the "Support Service Providers

1 Grant Program Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not  
2 subject to fiscal year limitations. The fund shall consist of  
3 monies appropriated to the Department by the ~~State~~ Legislature and  
4 any other monies acquired by the Department pursuant to subsection C  
5 of this section. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are  
6 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the  
7 Department in order to carry out the duties imposed in this section.  
8 Expenditures from the Support Service Providers Grant Program Fund  
9 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against  
10 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of  
11 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

12 SECTION 2. RECODIFICATION Section 2, Chapter 141, O.S.L.  
13 2018 (74 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 166.13), as last amended by  
14 Section 1 of this act, shall be recodified as Section 329.1 of Title  
15 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is created a duplication  
16 in numbering.

17 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

18 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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