

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1044

By: Thompson and Hall of the
Senate

3 and

4 Wallace and Hilbert of the
5 House

6
7 An Act relating to support service providers;
8 amending Section 2, Chapter 141, O.S.L. 2018 (74 O.S.
9 Supp. 2020, Section 166.13), which relates to program
10 to broaden availability of support service providers
11 in the deaf-blind community; transferring program to
12 the Department of Human Services; removing certain
13 condition on implementation of program; decreasing
14 limit on total amount of grants; renumbering Section
15 2, Chapter 141, O.S.L. 2018 (74 O.S. Supp. 2020,
16 Section 166.13), as last amended by Section 1 of this
17 act, which relates to program to broaden availability
18 of support service providers in the deaf-blind
19 community; providing an effective date; and declaring
20 an emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 141, O.S.L.
23 2018 (74 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 166.13), is amended to read as
24 follows:

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

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

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

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

6 a. transportation for doctor appointments, shopping or
7 errands,

8 b. reading mail or other correspondence,

9 c. making telephone calls,

10 d. recreation or wellness activities,

11 e. civic or religious activities,

12 f. deaf-blind meetings or events, and

13 g. occasional special events such as weddings, funerals
14 or religious ceremonies.

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

18 4. Use a request-for-proposal process to award grants to SSPs.
19 SSPs that receive grants pursuant to this section may expend the
20 grant monies for any purpose authorized in this subsection. The
21 total amount of grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not
22 exceed ~~Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00)~~ Two Hundred
23 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) annually.

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

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

18 D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
19 fund for the ~~State Department of Rehabilitation Services~~ Department
20 of Human Services to be designated the "Support Service Providers
21 Grant Program Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not
22 subject to fiscal year limitations. The fund shall consist of
23 monies appropriated to the Department by the ~~State~~ Legislature and
24 any other monies acquired by the Department pursuant to subsection C

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

8 SECTION 2. RECODIFICATION Section 2, Chapter 141, O.S.L.
9 2018 (74 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 166.13), as last amended by
10 Section 1 of this act, shall be recodified as Section 329.1 of Title
11 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is created a duplication
12 in numbering.

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

14 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
15 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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1 Passed the Senate the 18th day of May, 2021.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2021.

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9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives