

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2778

By: Caldwell (Trey), Kane, and
Ranson of the House

and

Hall and Haste of the
Senate

An Act relating to children; providing sunset; creating the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program; directing that Program be administered by Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness; directing promulgation of rules; providing income exemption for certain individuals when determining eligibility for child care subsidy program; directing provider to provide certain notice to the Department of Human Services; providing that all other conditions for eligibility apply; directing the Department to waive certain co-payment; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Children

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 461 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. There is hereby created, until November 1, 2028, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program to be administered by Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness under the direction of the Department of Human Services.

2. The Department of Human Services shall promulgate rules as necessary to implement and enforce the provisions of this section, including verifying income eligibility, employment status, and administering subsidy benefits accordingly.

B. The Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program, administered through Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness, shall ensure that:

1. A child care employee working at a child care facility licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act shall be eligible for the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program, provided that:

- a. total annual gross household income does not exceed One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) for a two-parent household,
- b. total annual gross household income does not exceed Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) for a single-parent household, or
- c. children must attend a program participating in the Department of Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program;

2. As used in this section, "child care employee" shall mean any individual who is employed for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week, averaged monthly, who provides direct care, supervision or educational services to children or who performs duties on-site that support the daily operation of the facility participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program and which is licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act;

3. An employee who qualifies under the household income limitations in paragraph 1 of this subsection:

- a. shall have household income exempted from consideration solely for purposes of calculating cost-sharing or co-payment responsibilities,
- b. shall have co-payments waived if eligible under the Department's Child Care Subsidy Program, and

- c. shall be eligible to participate in the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program, even if his or her income exceeds the Child Care Subsidy Program requirements;

4. When an employee who is employed by a licensed child care facility leaves employment of the licensed provider, the provider shall provide written notice within thirty (30) days to the Department of Human Services that the employee is no longer employed; and

5. Other than the income exemption pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection and the reporting requirements established pursuant to this subsection, all other conditions of eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy Program located in Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 340:40-7-1 shall be followed.

C. Subsection B of this section shall not apply to employees who are employed by a child care facility licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act and who are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program without household income being exempted.

D. The Department of Human Services shall waive co-payments for employees who are employed by a licensed child care facility and who qualify under income eligibility requirements of the Child Care Subsidy Program.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

Passed the House of Representatives the 20th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 22nd day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____