

1                                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3   2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4   HOUSE BILL 3955

  By: Blancett and **Roe**

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8   AS INTRODUCED

9                   An Act relating to childbirth and mental health;  
10                   amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-740.16, which  
11                   relates to definitions used in the Choosing  
12                   Childbirth Act; modifying definition; amending 63  
13                   O.S. 2021, Section 1-740.17, which relates to grants  
14                   to private organizations for services; modifying  
15                   grantmaking authority of the State Department of  
16                   Health; describing methods of making grants and  
17                   approving grant amounts; stipulating additional  
18                   reimbursable services; extending time period of  
19                   certain services; including the State Department of  
20                   Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; amending  
21                   63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-740.18, which relates to  
22                   grant compliance and monitoring; conforming language;  
23                   providing an effective date; and declaring an  
24                   emergency.

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

SECTION 1.            AMENDATORY            63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-740.16, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 1-740.16   As used in the Choosing Childbirth Act:

1 1. "Abortion" means the use or prescription of any instrument,  
2 medicine, drug or any other substance or device to intentionally:

3 a. kill the unborn child of a woman known to be pregnant,  
4 or

5 b. terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be  
6 pregnant, with an intention other than:

7 (1) after viability of the unborn child, to produce a  
8 live birth and preserve the life and health of  
9 the child born alive, or

10 (2) to remove a dead unborn child;

11 2. "Unborn child" means an individual organism of the species  
12 Homo sapiens from fertilization until birth; and

13 3. "Grant-supervising entity" means a private entity which  
14 approves all grants made under the Choosing Childbirth Act that are  
15 not directly made to private organizations by the State Department  
16 of Health for reimbursement of services provided under the Choosing  
17 Childbirth Act and which:

18 a. is organized as a not-for-profit corporation in  
19 ~~Oklahoma~~ this state and as a 501(c)3 entity under the  
20 federal Internal Revenue Code, and

21 b. does not encourage or counsel any woman to have an  
22 abortion not necessary to prevent her death, to  
23 provide her such an abortion or to refer her for such  
24 an abortion, and does not accept funds or services

1 knowingly from any entity which performs abortions or  
2 receives money for abortions.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-740.17, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 1-740.17 A. The State Department of Health and the  
6 Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
7 shall make grants, as directed in subsection B of this section, from  
8 funds appropriated by the Legislature ~~specifically for this purpose,~~  
9 ~~to a grant-supervising entity for the purpose of reimbursing~~ for the  
10 Choosing Childbirth Act.

11 B. The purpose of the grants shall be to reimburse private  
12 organizations in Oklahoma this state for the reasonable expenses of  
13 programs providing the ~~following~~ services listed in subsection C of  
14 this section. The Departments shall make grants either:

15 1. Directly to the private organizations;

16 2. To one or more grant-supervising entities, who shall  
17 reimburse the private organizations; or

18 3. Both directly to the private organizations and to one or  
19 more grant-supervising entities, who shall reimburse the private  
20 organizations.

21 C. Reimbursable services provided under the Choosing Childbirth  
22 Act shall include:

23 1. Providing information on, referral to and assistance in  
24 securing the services of relevant existing programs or agencies that

1 assist women in ~~Oklahoma~~ this state to carry their children to term,  
2 and/or providing services that assist women to carry their children  
3 to term including, but not limited to, agencies and programs that  
4 will provide:

- 5 a. medical attention for the pregnant woman for the  
6 duration of her pregnancy including, but not limited  
7 to, obstetric ultrasounds,
- 8 b. mental health and substance abuse services,
- 9 c. nutritional support services,
- 10 d. housing assistance,
- 11 e. transportation assistance,
- 12 f. adoption services,
- 13 g. education and employment assistance, and
- 14 h. parenting education and support services;

15 2. Providing women in ~~Oklahoma~~ this state, in person and  
16 through community outreach, information and/or services that  
17 encourage and assist them to carry their children to term; and

18 3. Providing services including, but not limited to, healthcare  
19 services to mothers and infants up to three (3) years postpartum for  
20 the purpose of reducing the rates of maternal mortality and infant  
21 mortality in this state by three percent (3%) ~~within five (5) years~~  
22 ~~of the effective date of this act~~ not later than July 1, 2026;  
23 provided, however, no funds shall be provided to an organization  
24 that provides, or whose affiliates provide, abortion services.

1 ~~B.~~ D. To be eligible for a service grant, an organization  
2 shall:

3 1. Be registered with the ~~Oklahoma~~ Secretary of State as a not-  
4 for-profit corporation located in Oklahoma or be a certified  
5 treatment provider by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and  
6 Substance Abuse Services.

7 2. Have the grant amount approved by ~~a~~:

8 a. the grant-supervising entity, if the grant was  
9 provided to the private organization by a grant-  
10 supervising entity, or

11 b. if the grant was provided directly, by the State  
12 Department of Health or the Oklahoma Department of  
13 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;

14 3. For services described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection ~~A~~  
15 C of this section, provide each pregnant woman counseled with  
16 accurate information on the developmental characteristics of unborn  
17 children including offering the printed information described in  
18 Section 1-738.3 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

19 4. Assure that the grant's sole purposes are to assist and  
20 encourage women to carry their children to term and to maximize  
21 their potentials thereafter as provided in paragraphs 1 and 2 of  
22 subsection C of this section or to reduce the rates of maternal  
23 mortality and infant mortality in this state as provided in  
24 paragraph 3 of subsection ~~A~~ C of this section; and

1           5. Assure that none of the funds provided pursuant to the  
2 Choosing Childbirth Act, nor any other funds or services provided by  
3 the organization, are used to encourage or counsel a woman to have  
4 an abortion not necessary to prevent her death, to provide her such  
5 an abortion or to refer her for such an abortion.

6           SECTION 3.           AMENDATORY           63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-740.18, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8           Section 1-740.18 The State Department of Health shall ~~make~~  
9 ~~grants to a grant-supervising entity under the Choosing Childbirth~~  
10 ~~Act from funds appropriated by the Legislature specifically for this~~  
11 ~~purpose. The State Department of Health shall annually monitor and~~  
12 ~~review the any grant-supervising entity participating in the~~  
13 ~~Choosing Childbirth act and any private organization directly~~  
14 ~~receiving a service grant from the Department to assure ensure~~ that  
15 the grant-supervising entity or private organization carefully  
16 adheres to the purposes and requirements of the Choosing Childbirth  
17 Act, ~~and it.~~ The Department shall cease funding a grant-supervising  
18 entity or private organization that fails to ~~de-se~~ adhere to such  
19 purposes and requirements if the Department proves specific findings  
20 of noncompliance, subject to judicial review.

21           SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

22           SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
24 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and

1 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, dated 02/15/2024 -  
4 DO PASS, As Coauthored.

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