

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 535

 By: Rosino of the Senate

 and

 McEntire of the House

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10 An Act relating to community health workers; creating
11 the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act; providing
12 short title; defining terms; directing establishment
13 of certificate; making certification voluntary;
14 listing powers of community health worker; requiring
15 and authorizing promulgation of certain rules;
16 directing establishment of certain fees; providing
17 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.1 of Title 59, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
23 Community Health Worker Act".
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1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.2 of Title 59, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act:

5 1. "Certified community health worker" means a community health
6 worker to whom the State Department of Health has issued a
7 certificate to practice as a certified community health worker in
8 this state;

9 2. "Community health worker" means a frontline public health
10 worker who has a shared understanding of and is a trusted member in
11 the community being served; and

12 3. "Department" means the State Department of Health.

13 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.3 of Title 59, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. The State Department of Health shall establish a certificate
17 for community health workers. This certification shall be
18 voluntary.

19 B. A certified community health worker may:

20 1. Serve as a liaison between health and social services and
21 the community to facilitate access to services and improve the
22 quality and cultural competence of service delivery;

23 2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current
24 community and health care resources; and

1 3. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health
2 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as
3 outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support,
4 and advocacy.

5 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.4 of Title 59, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules to:

9 1. Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified
10 community health worker initial coursework or curriculum;

11 2. Establish examination administration requirements for the
12 Department or one or more designees;

13 3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be
14 certified; and

15 4. Establish the criteria for granting, denying, suspending,
16 and revoking a certificate to protect public health and safety.

17 B. The Commissioner may also promulgate rules necessary for the
18 proper administration and enforcement of the Oklahoma Community
19 Health Worker Act and which allow for reciprocity agreements
20 including, but not limited to, with the Indian Health Service,
21 Tribal Contract or Compact Health Centers, Urban Indian Health
22 Centers, and tribal health systems.

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1 C. The Commissioner shall prescribe fees for the certified
2 community health worker examination, initial certification, and
3 certification renewal.

4 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, dated 04/06/2023 -
7 DO PASS.
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