

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 757

By: Bullard

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to pregnancy care and support;
9 requiring creation of certain program subject to
10 available funding; stating purpose and goals of
11 program; directing promulgation of certain rules;
12 authorizing execution of certain contracts;
13 describing program; listing components of program;
14 stating program eligibility requirements; requiring
15 submission of certain report; describing report;
16 providing rulemaking authority; providing for
17 codification; providing an effective date; and
18 declaring an emergency.

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

26 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
27 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-740.31 of Title 63, unless
28 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

29 A. Subject to availability of funding, there is hereby created
30 within the State Department of Health a continuum of care program
31 for certain pregnant women and parents.

1 B. 1. The purpose of the program is to facilitate the
2 operation of a statewide telecare support network that provides
3 community outreach, consultations, and care coordination for women
4 who are challenged with unexpected pregnancies.

5 2. The program shall be designed to accomplish all of the
6 following goals:

- 7 a. encourage healthy childbirth,
- 8 b. support childbirth as an alternative to abortion,
- 9 c. promote family formation,
- 10 d. assist parents in establishing successful parenting
11 techniques, and
- 12 e. increase the economic self-sufficiency of families.

13 C. 1. The program shall encompass a statewide telecare support
14 network. The State Commissioner of Health shall provide in rule for
15 the functions and administration of this network.

16 2. The rules providing for the telecare support network shall
17 ensure that the network does not hold itself out to be an entity
18 that can perform, refer for, or assist with an abortion. The
19 telecare support network shall not set appointments with or refer
20 women or parents to any entity that performs abortions or recommends
21 for abortion.

22 D. The Department may enter into contracts to implement the
23 program.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-740.32 of Title 63, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. 1. The continuum of care program shall provide direct
5 services, supports, social services case management, and referrals
6 to biological parents of unborn children and biological or adoptive
7 parents of children under the age of two (2) years.

8 2. The program shall deliver services through electronic means,
9 including synchronous and asynchronous interactions, utilizing the
10 telecare support network provided for in Section 1 of this act.
11 Subject to available funding, the program may deliver services
12 through other modes of service delivery.

13 B. The components of the program shall include, but not be
14 limited to, all of the following:

- 15 1. Outreach to at-risk populations eligible for the program;
16 2. Utilization of registered nurses, who shall be licensed by
17 the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, to perform the following functions:
18 a. assessment and evaluation of needs related to
19 pregnancy or parenting, and
20 b. provision of medically accurate, pregnancy-related
21 medical information to program participants;
22 3. Utilization of social workers, who shall be licensed by the
23 State Board of Licensed Social Workers, or other licensed
24

1 individuals with equivalent experience, to perform the following
2 functions:

- 3 a. development of a care plan, resources, and supports
4 for program participants to address identified needs,
- 5 b. referrals to appropriate local resources including,
6 but not limited to, state and federal benefits
7 programs and local charitable organizations,
- 8 c. assistance in applying for state and federal benefits
9 programs, and
- 10 d. assistance in accomplishing elements of the care plan;
11 and

12 4. Coordination for pregnant women served by the telecare
13 support network of appointments with in-person pregnancy resources
14 centers or similar agencies in this state which provide information
15 and services including, but not limited to, counseling, ultrasound
16 services, pregnancy tests, prenatal assistance, parenting classes,
17 material support, and adoption information.

18 C. In order to be eligible to receive services through the
19 program, an individual shall, at the time of initial contact with
20 the program, meet all of the following requirements:

- 21 1. Is a resident of this state; and
- 22 2. Is a biological parent of an unborn child or a biological or
23 adoptive parent of a child under the age of two (2) years.

1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-740.33 of Title 63, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 On or before December 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
5 State Department of Health shall submit to the President Pro Tempore
6 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
7 report on the status and operation of the program. Each report
8 required by this section shall include, at minimum, all of the
9 following:

10 1. A detailed itemization of expenditures associated with the
11 program;

12 2. The number of individuals served by the program, and for the
13 individuals served, the types of services provided to each;

14 3. Any information regarding the program requested by and
15 provided to any elected member of the Legislature during the period
16 addressed in the report; and

17 4. Any other information that the State Commissioner of Health
18 deems necessary or appropriate for facilitating evaluation of the
19 program.

20 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-740.34 of Title 63, unless
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate such rules as
24 are necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

2 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
3 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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