

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 424

6 By: Gillespie

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

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

20 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
21 Community Health Worker Act".

22 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.2 of Title 59, unless there
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act:

1 1. "Certified community health worker" means a community health
2 worker to whom the State Department of Health has issued a
3 certificate to practice as a certified community health worker in
4 this state;

5 2. "Community health worker" means a frontline health worker
6 who has a shared understanding of and is a trusted member of the
7 community being served; and

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

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

12 A. The State Department of Health shall establish a certificate
13 for community health workers. This certification shall be
14 voluntary.

15 B. A certified community health worker may:

16 1. Serve as a liaison between health and social services and
17 the community, including faith-based organizations, to facilitate
18 access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence
19 of service delivery;

20 2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current
21 community and health care resources; and

22 3. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health
23 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as
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1 outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support,
2 and advocacy, including efforts within faith-based settings.

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

6 A. To be eligible to apply for voluntary community health
7 worker certification, an individual shall:

- 8 1. Be a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident;
- 9 2. Be a resident of this state;
- 10 3. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
- 11 4. Meet the minimum qualifications for certification

12 promulgated by the State Commissioner of Health under Section 5 of
13 this act; provided, however, the applicant shall be exempt from such
14 minimum qualifications if the applicant has provided evidence to the
15 State Department of Health of work experience as a community health
16 worker demonstrating a minimum of one thousand (1,000) practical
17 hours and a recommendation from a supervising provider.

18 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.5 of Title 59, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules
22 necessary to implement this act including, but not limited to, rules
23 that:

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- 1 1. Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified
2 community health worker initial coursework or curriculum;
- 3 2. Establish examination administration requirements for the
4 State Department of Health or one or more designees;
- 5 3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be
6 certified;
- 7 4. Establish the criteria for granting, renewing, denying,
8 suspending, and revoking a certificate to uphold health standards
9 and safety; and
- 10 5. Prescribe fees for the certified community health worker
11 examination, initial certification, and certification renewal.

12 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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