

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 3, 2025

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 424

6 By: Gillespie and Nice

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

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

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

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

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

24 As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act:

1. "Certified community health worker" means a community health
worker to whom the State Department of Health has issued a

1 certificate to practice as a certified community health worker in
2 this state;

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

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

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

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

13 B. A certified community health worker may:

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

18 2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current
19 community and health care resources; and

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

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

4 To be eligible to apply for voluntary community health worker
5 certification, an individual shall:

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

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

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

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

- 22 1. Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified
23 community health worker initial coursework or curriculum;

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1 2. Establish examination administration requirements for the
2 State Department of Health or one or more designees;

3 3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be
4 certified;

5 4. Establish the criteria for granting, renewing, denying,
6 suspending, and revoking a certificate to uphold health standards
7 and safety; and

8 5. Prescribe fees for the certified community health worker
9 examination, initial certification, and certification renewal.

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

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
12 March 3, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS

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