

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1244

By: Lepak of the House

and

Griffin of the Senate

An Act relating to the State Department of Rehabilitation Services; creating the Jeri Cooper Act; directing State Department of Rehabilitation Services to establish a support service providers program; describing program purpose; listing services to be included in program; authorizing development of a certification requirement and training program for certain purposes; specifying conditions; mandating a request-for-proposal process for awarding grants; limiting total dollar amount of grants awarded annually; authorizing expansion of program; allowing Department to solicit and accept private or public funds; creating the Support Service Providers Grant Program Fund; specifying source of fund; providing for expenditures; providing for noncodification; and providing for codification.

SUBJECT: Support service providers program

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Jeri Cooper Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 166.13 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Subject to the availability of funds, the State Department of Rehabilitation Services shall:

1. Establish a program to broaden the availability of support service providers (SSPs) in the deaf-blind community;

2. Develop a mission statement for the program and promulgate rules necessary to implement and administer the program;

3. Provide grants to SSPs and organizations that provide services for deaf-blind adults or deaf-blind children and their families. The services shall include but are not limited to:

- a. transportation for doctor appointments, shopping or errands,
- b. reading mail or other correspondence,
- c. making telephone calls,
- d. recreation or wellness activities,
- e. civic or religious activities,
- f. deaf-blind meetings or events, and
- g. occasional special events such as weddings, funerals or religious ceremonies.

The Department may prioritize and limit the amount and scope of services offered subject to funding limitations and considering the needs of the deaf-blind recipients and their families; and

4. Use a request-for-proposal process to award grants to SSPs. SSPs that receive grants pursuant to this section may expend the grant monies for any purpose authorized in this subsection. The total amount of grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) annually.

B. After establishing a program pursuant to subsection A of this section and subject to the availability of funds, the Department may develop a certification requirement and training program for SSPs and organizations that provide services for deaf-blind adults or deaf-blind children and their families with the

primary priority of service to the deaf-blind recipients and their families.

C. The structure and scope of the program established in subsection A of this section may be expanded upon legislative approval and funding. The program shall be aligned with other initiatives of the Department to avoid duplication or overlap of services or programming; however, the Department may use a combination of services or programs to provide a comprehensive support program for deaf-blind adults or deaf-blind children and their families. The Department may solicit and accept private or public funds from individuals and entities to implement and administer the program.

D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the State Department of Rehabilitation Services to be designated the "Support Service Providers Grant Program Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations. The fund shall consist of monies appropriated to the Department by the State Legislature and any other monies acquired by the Department pursuant to subsection C of this section. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Department in order to carry out the duties imposed in this section. Expenditures from the Support Service Providers Grant Program Fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of March, 2018.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 23rd day of April, 2018.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____