

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 703

By: Standridge

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 640.2, which relates to the Oklahoma
9 Partnership for School Readiness Board; requiring
assessment of certain policies; expanding required
contents of report; and providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2011, Section 640.2, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 640.2. A. The Oklahoma Partnership for School
16 Readiness Board may:

17 1. Establish guidelines for the disbursement of funds received
18 from any public or private source or otherwise made available to the
19 Board for the purpose of supporting community initiatives that are
20 consistent with the goals of the Oklahoma Partnership for School
21 Readiness Act and direct such other expenditures as may be necessary
22 in the performance of its duties;

1 2. Establish other guidelines as necessary to carry out the
2 duties and responsibilities assigned to the Oklahoma Partnership for
3 School Readiness Board;

4 3. Receive funds from any public or private source;

5 4. Enter into contractual agreements to assist with the
6 administration of the Board and to provide technical assistance to
7 communities upon request;

8 5. Appoint subcommittees which may include persons who are not
9 Board members. Such persons shall not be entitled to compensation
10 but may be reimbursed, upon approval by the Director of the
11 Department of Human Services, for necessary expenses incurred in the
12 performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel
13 Reimbursement Act; and

14 6. The Board shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible,
15 that the needs and values of all parents are respected and protected
16 and that voluntary participation is the basis for delivering all
17 school readiness programs. The Board shall act in ways which are
18 sensitive to the diverse religious and other values of Oklahomans.

19 B. The responsibilities of the Oklahoma Partnership for School
20 Readiness Board shall be to:

21 1. Conduct a thorough assessment of existing public and private
22 programs and policies to determine their effectiveness and to
23 maximize the efficient use of current state funds, with particular
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1 respect paid to eligibility criteria for child care subsidies
2 administered by the Department of Human Services;

3 2. Implement a public engagement campaign and establish a
4 structure to facilitate communication between communities;

5 3. Provide leadership at the state level to encourage
6 communities to develop and improve school readiness opportunities at
7 the local level to encourage and empower local communities;

8 4. Encourage public and private programs, services, and
9 initiatives be brought together to provide coordinated, community-
10 based, effective and cost-efficient programs;

11 5. Maximize the extent to which private sector funding is
12 leveraged and federal, state, and local funds are coordinated with
13 private funds;

14 6. Establish standards of accountability in school readiness
15 programs and policy and recognize and promote the best practices;
16 and

17 7. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature
18 no later than November 1 of each year. The report shall include,
19 but not be limited to, the following:

- 20 a. preparedness level of children entering kindergarten,
21 b. status and results of the effort of the Board to
22 engage the public regarding the care and education of
23 children under the age of five (5) years and of the
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- 1 efforts of the Board to develop and promote private
2 sector programs and voluntary parental involvement,
- 3 c. detailed summary of community initiatives and programs
4 funded in whole, or in part, by the Board,
- 5 d. availability and cost of quality child care for
6 children under five (5) years of age needing care
7 outside their home,
- 8 e. number, location, and status of quality
9 prekindergarten programs in the state, ~~and~~
- 10 f. percentage of third-grade students reading at or above
11 grade level, and
- 12 g. suggested revisions to state law or the Oklahoma
13 Administrative Code, with particular respect paid to
14 eligibility criteria for child care subsidies
15 administered by the Department of Human Services.

16 C. The Department of Human Services shall be the lead public
17 agency for general administration and monitoring of programs and
18 activities related to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness
19 Act.

20 D. Each of the following agencies shall make staff available to
21 the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board for the purpose
22 of providing professional consultation and staff support to assist
23 in the implementation of this act:

- 24 1. State Department of Education;

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- 2. State Department of Health;
- 3. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;
- 4. Department of Human Services; and
- 5. Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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