An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2157

By: Echols of the House

and

Griffin of the Senate

An Act relating to children; enacting the Family Support Accountability Act; defining terms; directing departments providing home-visiting services to promulgate rules; requiring home-visiting program to conduct visits by trained educators; prescribing programs to work in partnership; mandating program to achieve a minimum of specified outcomes; directing departments to work with listed groups for information sharing; requiring home-visiting program language for contracts and grants; mandating collaboration with the Early Childhood Advisory Council; prescribing development of outcomes measurement plan; providing for submission of plan; requiring collaboration to submit an annual outcomes report; listing contents of annual outcomes report; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Family Support Accountability Act

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.80 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Family Support Accountability Act".

B. As used in the Family Support Accountability Act:

1. "Departments" means any state department or agency implementing home-visiting programs; and

2. "Home-visiting program" means a state-funded or state-administered, standards-based program that:

a. is grounded in relevant, empirically based best practices and knowledge that:

(1) has comprehensive home-visiting standards that ensure high quality service delivery and continuous quality improvement, and

(2) follows with fidelity a program manual or design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration and frequency of services that constitute the program,

b. provides services to families of young children that elect to participate,

c. utilizes a variety of culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate strategies,

d. connects families to additional services that support parents,

e. promotes child well-being and prevents adverse childhood outcomes,

f. promotes parental competence, child health and development by building long-term relationships with families and optimizing the relationships between parents and children in their home environments,

g. provides for the collection and analysis of data about program performance and outcomes at the state aggregate level, county aggregate level, provider level and participant level, and

h. does not include:

(1) a one-time home visit or infrequent home visits with no intention of long-term services, such as

a program that provides one home visit for all newborn children,

(2) services delivered through an individualized family service plan or an individualized education program under Part B or Part C of the federal government's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,

(3) services initiated by a report to the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services or by court order, or

(4) programs in which home visiting is supplemental to other services.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.81 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The departments that provide home-visiting services may adopt and promulgate rules by which the home-visiting program shall operate.

B. The departments shall provide a framework for service delivery and accountability across all home-visiting programs to promote a continuum of care that targets families at the greatest risk for experiencing adverse childhood outcomes.

C. A home-visiting program shall provide face-to-face visits by specially trained parent educators to provide home-based family support services.

D. The departments shall ensure home-visiting programs work in partnership to serve children, thereby maximizing the opportunities for families to receive services that best fit their needs.

E. A home-visiting program shall achieve two or more of the following:

1. Improve prenatal, maternal, infant or child health outcomes, including, but not limited to, indicators such as preterm birth rates, substance abuse and tobacco use;

2. Reduce entry into the child welfare system;

3. Improve positive parenting and relationship skills;

4. Improve parental self-sufficiency, including increased employment and educational attainment;

5. Improve children's readiness to succeed in school; and

6. Improve children's social-emotional, cognitive and language and physical development, including efforts at early identification of delays.

F. The departments shall work with community partners, researchers, model developers, program providers and interested private entities to develop processes that provide for a greater ability to collaborate, as well as share best practices and information as necessary and appropriate.

G. When the departments authorize funds through payments, contracts or grants that are used for home-visiting programs, they shall include language regarding home visiting in the funding agreement contract or grant that is consistent with the provisions of the Family Support Accountability Act.

H. State and local agencies administering home-visiting programs as defined in this act, providers of home-visiting services and experts in home-visiting program evaluation shall collaborate with the Early Childhood Advisory Council created in Section 640.1 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes to:

1. Jointly develop an outcomes measurement plan which includes indicators related to the objectives established in subsection E of this section in order to monitor outcomes for children and families receiving home-visiting programs and determine the efficiency of agency program implementation;

2. Complete and submit the outcomes measurement plan for state-funded home-visiting programs by January 1, 2016, to the Governor, the Legislature, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth and the Early Childhood Advisory Council and complete and submit an updated plan every subsequent five (5) years; and

3. Develop a process for collecting and reporting outcomes measures to maintain privacy and security.

I. Beginning December 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the departments shall allocate resources to collaborate with the Early Childhood Advisory Council to submit an annual outcomes report to the Governor and the Legislature.

J. The annual outcomes report shall include:

1. Achieved outcomes as agreed upon and described in the previously submitted outcomes measurement plan pursuant to subsection H of this section for all state-funded family support programs;

2. Combined program data regarding:

a. the cost per family served,

b. the number of families served,

c. demographic data on families served, and

d. the number and type of programs that the departments have funded; and

3. Recommendations for quality improvements and future program investments.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of March, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 21st day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 22nd
day of April, 20 15, at 12:08 o'clock P M.
By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 28th
day of April, 20 15, at 2:27 o'clock P M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 28th
day of April, 20 15, at 3:30 o'clock P. M.
By: C. Benge