

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 424

By: Gillespie and Nice of the
Senate

3 and

4 Hefner of the House

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7 An Act relating to community health workers; creating
8 the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act; providing
short title; defining terms; directing establishment
of certificate; making certification voluntary;
listing functions of community health worker;
requiring and prohibiting certain acts by community
health worker; providing eligibility criteria;
directing promulgation of certain rules; providing
for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063a of Title 63, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063b of Title 63, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 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 2063c of Title 63, 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 to facilitate access to services, to improve the
18 quality of service delivery, and to maximize the efficiency of
19 service delivery by coordinating available resources and leveraging
20 partnerships with private, nonprofit, or faith-based organizations;

21 2. Assist individuals in attaining employment, education,
22 occupational training, or other means of supporting employment and
23 promoting self-sufficiency;

1 3. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current
2 community and health care resources; and

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

7 C. In carrying out the functions described in paragraph 1 of
8 subsection B of this section, community health workers shall
9 emphasize available resources of private, nonprofit, or faith-based
10 organizations, and shall not rely solely on public assistance
11 programs for delivery of services.

12 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063d of Title 63, unless there
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 To be eligible for voluntary community health worker
16 certification, an individual shall:

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

21 promulgated by the State Commissioner of Health under Section 5 of
22 this act.

1 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063e of Title 63, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules
5 necessary to implement this act including, but not limited to, rules
6 that:

7 1. Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified
8 community health worker initial coursework or curriculum;

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

11 3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be
12 certified; provided, however, the applicant shall be exempt from any
13 educational, training, or examination requirements if the applicant
14 has provided evidence to the State Department of Health of work
15 experience as a community health worker demonstrating a minimum of
16 one thousand (1,000) practical hours and a recommendation from a
17 supervising provider;

18 4. Establish the criteria for granting, renewing, denying,
19 suspending, and revoking a certificate to uphold health standards
20 and safety;

21 5. Prescribe fees for the certified community health worker
22 examination, initial certification, and certification renewal; and

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6. Implement oversight procedures to ensure compliance with the provisions of this act, including a complaint and disciplinary process for violations.

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

Passed the Senate the 26th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the _____ day of _____,
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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives