

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1008

By: Bush of the House

3 and

4 Garvin of the Senate
5
6

7 An Act relating to medical-legal partnership
8 programs; defining terms; requiring collaboration
9 between the State Department of Health and certain
10 entities to develop standards and guidelines for
11 certain programs; defining entities eligible to
12 operate certain programs; requiring compliance with
13 certain standards, guidelines and regulations;
14 providing for codification; and providing an
15 effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-610 of Title 63, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. As used in this section:

21 1. "Eligible organization" means an entity that:

22 a. is organized as a nonprofit corporation that is tax
23 exempt pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (3) of
24 subsection (c) of Section 501 of the United States
Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,

- 1 b. has as its primary purpose the furnishing of legal
2 assistance to eligible clients, and
3 c. is incorporated pursuant to any applicable laws of
4 this state; and

5 2. "Medical-legal partnership program" means a program that is
6 a collaboration between health care providers, as defined by Section
7 1-1708.1C of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and eligible
8 regional or statewide organizations that provide legal services to
9 indigent persons; the purpose of the medical-legal partnership
10 program is to provide on-site legal services without charge to
11 assist eligible patients and their families to resolve legal matters
12 or needs that have an impact on patient health or are created or
13 aggravated by a patient's health. For the purpose of this section,
14 legal matters may include, but shall not be limited to:

- 15 a. housing, including utilities,
16 b. public or private health insurance or managed care
17 coverage,
18 c. employment and eligibility for employment benefits,
19 d. government benefits including, but not limited to,
20 Social Security and Veterans Affairs,
21 e. family law matters including, but not limited to,
22 domestic violence, guardianship, child custody and
23 child support,
24

- 1 f. advance planning including, but not limited to, wills,
- 2 health care proxies, powers of attorney and permanency
- 3 planning, and
- 4 g. debtor and creditor issues.

5 B. The State Department of Health shall work with eligible
6 organizations, community health advocacy organizations, hospitals,
7 diagnostic and treatment centers and other primary and specialty
8 health care providers to establish standards and guidelines for
9 medical-legal partnership programs established pursuant to this
10 section. The Department may approve medical-legal partnership
11 programs that comply with standards and guidelines established for
12 such programs. A medical-legal partnership program may be operated
13 by or affiliated with eligible organizations, law schools, social
14 services organizations or health care providers. A medical-legal
15 partnership program shall comply with the standards, guidelines and
16 regulations promulgated pursuant to this section.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 23rd day of February,
2021.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

6 Passed the Senate the ___ day of _____, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate