

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 643

By: Standridge

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to public assistance; providing  
8 definitions; directing creation of certain pilot  
9 program; providing standards for pilot program;  
10 requiring submission of certain reports; requiring  
11 Department of Human Services to seek certain  
12 approval; providing for promulgation of rules;  
13 providing for codification; providing an effective  
14 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 230.79 of Title 56, unless there  
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 For the purposes of this act:

20 1. "Health savings account (HSA)" means an electronic bank  
21 account assigned to a current enrollee in the Statewide Temporary  
22 Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) program and maintained by  
23 the Department of Human Services;

24 2. "Household retirement account (HRA)" means an electronic  
bank account assigned to a current enrollee or enrollees in the

1 Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) program  
2 and maintained by the Department of Human Services;

3 3. "Household down payment account (HDPA)" means an electronic  
4 bank account assigned to a current enrollee or enrollees in the  
5 Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) program  
6 and maintained by the Department of Human Services;

7 4. "Educational savings account" means an electronic bank  
8 account assigned to a current enrollee in the Statewide Temporary  
9 Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) program and maintained by  
10 the Department of Human Services; and

11 5. "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

12 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 230.80 of Title 56, unless there  
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. The Department of Human Services shall develop and implement  
16 a pilot program for married parents with children who are currently  
17 eligible for assistance in the Statewide Temporary Assistance  
18 Responsibility program, as defined by Sections 230.50 et seq. of  
19 Title 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The pilot program shall review  
20 the feasibility of consolidating the available services for each  
21 family, as prescribed in Section 230.51 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma  
22 Statutes, into lump-sum payments, to be dispersed as follows:

23 1. Annual health care grants, to be deposited into the  
24 household's health savings account; provided, the amount deposited

1 not exceed the total dollar amount of eligible services for the  
2 household under the Oklahoma Medicaid Program;

3 2. A monthly housing grant of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00);  
4 provided, the household's annual income does not exceed Fifty  
5 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in the calendar year of eligibility;

6 3. For every one (1) year that the parents of the eligible  
7 household remain married, a deposit into the couple's household  
8 retirement account, respectively, household down payment account,  
9 respectively, and educational savings account, respectively.

10 B. Nothing in this act shall be construed so as to award a  
11 qualifying household with an aggregate payment amount exceeding that  
12 which would otherwise be available under existing state and federal  
13 public assistance programs.

14 C. The Department of Human Services shall coordinate with  
15 relevant state and federal agencies to determine the feasibility of  
16 the pilot program proposed herein and shall report on the  
17 feasibility of such a pilot program to the Chair and Vice Chair of  
18 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House of  
19 Representatives Human Services Committee by November 1, 2015. The  
20 Department shall seek all federal approval necessary to implement  
21 the provisions of this section. The Department shall promulgate  
22 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

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1 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
2 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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