

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4 HOUSE BILL 1008

By: Bush of the House

5   and

6   **Garvin** of the Senate

7  
8  
9   AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

23                   A. As used in this section:

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

- a. is organized as a nonprofit corporation that is tax exempt pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of Section 501 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,
- b. has as its primary purpose the furnishing of legal assistance to eligible clients, and
- c. is incorporated pursuant to any applicable laws of this state; and

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

- a. housing, including utilities,
- b. public or private health insurance or managed care coverage,
- c. employment and eligibility for employment benefits,
- d. government benefits including, but not limited to, Social Security and Veterans Affairs,

- 1 e. family law matters including, but not limited to,  
2 domestic violence, guardianship, child custody and  
3 child support,  
4 f. advance planning including, but not limited to, wills,  
5 health care proxies, powers of attorney and permanency  
6 planning, and  
7 g. debtor and creditor issues.

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

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.  
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22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION AND  
23 EFFICIENCY, dated 02/10/2021 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.  
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