ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 505

By: Miles-LaGrange and Horner of the Senate

and

Monson, Cox, Ross, Johnson (Glen), Johnson (Rob), Apple, Satterfield and Boyd (Betty) of the House

An Act relating to state government; stating legislative findings; establishing the Oklahoma Task Force on the Status of African-American Males; providing for membership, appointments, and designation of officers of the Task Force; providing for quorum and travel reimbursement; providing for duties and responsibilities of the Task Force; providing for staffing; allowing meeting or consulting with certain persons; requiring reports of findings; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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 8101 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma State Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. Statistical studies chronicling the status of African-American males in American society reveal startling and disturbing conditions and trends;

2. By every indicia measuring achievement, success and quality of life in American society, African-American males are facing a prodigious struggle for survival while fighting formidable opponents;

3. African-American males make up only three and two-tenths percent (3.2%) of the population of Oklahoma, but are victims of twenty-one and eight-tenths percent (21.8%) of the state's homicides and comprise twenty-one and five-tenths percent (21.5%) of all persons under the control of the State Department of Corrections;

4. National statistics indicate that one of every twenty-two African-American males will die as a result of homicide and that one of every six African-American males will be arrested by the age of nineteen years;

5. African-American males make up only three percent (3%) of Oklahoma's total college and university enrollment;

6. African-American males suffer from more debilitating health problems, a higher death rate and a lower life expectancy than males in other ethnic and racial groups;

7. Between the years 1973 and 1988, the average real annual income for African-American males in the United States between the

ages of twenty and twenty-four years fell by more than fifty percent (50%); and

8. There is no statewide repository of data available on the status of African-American males.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8102 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby established the Oklahoma Task Force on the Status of African-American Males.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8103 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Task Force on the Status of African-American Males shall consist of twenty-one (21) members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate, seven of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and seven of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, as follows:

1. Appointments to the Task Force shall include, but not be limited to, members of the State Senate and the House of Representatives, professionals in the fields of criminal justice, health and social services, education, employment, economic development, commerce and the media. State officers or employees may be appointed to the Task Force;

2. The initial appointments to the Task Force shall be made not later than July 1, 1993, provided that appointments may be made immediately upon passage of this act;

3. Whenever an appointment to the Task Force is not made by July 1, 1993, the position shall be filled, on a temporary basis, by a person appointed by a quorum of the Task Force. A person appointed by a quorum of the Task Force shall, however, serve only until the appropriate appointing authority makes a permanent appointment. For purposes of this paragraph, a quorum of the Task Force shall be ten (10) members, except that none of these ten members shall have been appointed by a quorum of the Task Force;

4. The President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate shall designate a chair for the Task Force from among the Senate appointees; and

5. The Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives shall designate a vice chair for the Task Force from among the House of Representatives appointees.

B. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed by the appointing authority for necessary travel pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8104 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Oklahoma Task Force on the Status of African-American Males to:

1. Appoint advisory committees with recognized expertise in the targeted areas listed in paragraph 2 of this section;

2. Conduct research to determine the nature and extent of the problems concerning African-American males in targeted areas which shall include, but not be limited to, employment, education, criminal justice, social services, health, economic empowerment and the media;

3. Hold public hearings for the purpose of collecting data;

4. Identify existing federal, state and local programs that address problems and solutions relevant to the targeted areas of study;

5. Develop community education and public awareness programs especially designed for African-American males; and

6. Develop strategies to improve the social condition of African-American males.

B. Staffing for the Task Force shall be provided by the staffs of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

C. The Task Force may meet or consult with any persons as may be able to assist the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this act.

D. The Task Force shall report its findings to the Legislature and the Governor, upon request, beginning January 31, 1994, and annually thereafter, through January 31, 1996.

SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 13th day of April, 1993.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of April, 1993.

Speaker of the House of Representatives