

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 45

By: Long (Ed) of the Senate

and

Boyd (Laura) of the House

A Concurrent Resolution creating the Early Childhood Collaboration Task Force; providing for appointment of members, appointment of chair and vice-chair, staffing, and reimbursement for travel of Task Force; stating duties of Task Force; requiring certain report; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, studies indicate that early childhood services and education programs contribute to educational and social success throughout adolescence and adulthood; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive approach to delivery of services to families with young children is needed; and

WHEREAS, children who fall significantly behind in language and cognitive ability in early childhood are likely to remain behind for the rest of their lives; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for sharing information and research related to developmentally appropriate models of early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for increased parental involvement in early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, the nation has adopted the goal that by the year 2000 all children entering first grade will be ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, the first-graders for the year 2000 are infants today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created the Early Childhood Collaboration Task Force to consist of thirteen (13) members appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Oklahoma State Senate who shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed chair of the Task Force by the President Pro Tempore;

2. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed vice-chair of the Task Force by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3. Two members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore from a list of nominees representing organizations involved in early childhood programs and services submitted by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;

4. Two members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from a list of nominees representing organizations involved in early childhood programs and services submitted by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth;

5. A representative of the Early Childhood Division of the State Department of Education selected by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;

6. A representative of the Child Care Division of the Department of Human Services selected by the Director of the Department of Human Services;

7. A representative of a Community Action Agency Head Start Program to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

8. A representative of an institution of higher education in Oklahoma that confers doctoral degrees in family relations and child development to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

9. A superintendent of a school district in Oklahoma that offers early childhood programs to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THAT members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for attendance at task force meetings by the appointing agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

THAT staff assistance shall be provided by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, the Oklahoma State Senate, and the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

THAT the Task Force shall:

1. Assess the quality of existing early childhood services and educational programs, including the Oklahoma Parents as Teachers programs, Head Start programs, and early childhood programs initiated by the public schools;

2. Review research on the impact of early childhood programs and services;

3. Review procedures and opportunities for accessing federal money allocated for early childhood programs;

4. Review data related to supply and demand of early childhood teachers;

5. Develop a statewide plan including strategies for the delivery of educational programs and other services to young children and their families for presentation to the Legislature; and

6. Report to the Legislature, the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and the Department of Human Services on recommendations for policies and programs related to early childhood education and services, including the proposed statewide plan, by January 1, 1995.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the State Board of Education, the Department of Human Services, and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

Adopted by the Senate the 27th day of May, 1994.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 25th day of May, 1994.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

