

SHORT TITLE: Establishing the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Status of Oklahoma Women.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 39

By: Brown and Monson of the  
Senate

and

Boyd (Laura) of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to establishing a Joint Legislative Task Force on the Status of Oklahoma Women; providing for members, appointment, officers, vacancies, and reimbursement; providing duties; requiring reports; setting termination date; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in 1993 the Joint Interim Committee on the Status of Oklahoma Women completed a survey of the existing Oklahoma Statutes concerning gender-biased laws; and

WHEREAS, the survey identified many statutes that warrant review and discussion as to whether such laws need to or can be amended to eliminate gender bias; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Interim Committee on the Status of Oklahoma Women heard testimony from persons in various fields of expertise who noted gender bias both in language and effect in state laws and rules; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Joint Interim Committee on the Status of Oklahoma Women identified many areas in which women experience particular problems, including child support enforcement, domestic violence, medical care, education and pay; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need to continue the work begun by the Joint Interim Committee on the Status of Oklahoma Women.

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 established a Joint Legislative Task Force on the Status of Oklahoma Women which shall consist of seventeen (17) members, six of whom shall be members of the Oklahoma State Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, six of whom shall be members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, two of whom shall be lay members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, two of whom shall be lay members appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women. The appointments shall be made no later than July 1, 1994.

THAT the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name the initial chair of the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Status of Oklahoma Women and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall name the initial vice-chair from among their appointees, provided that the chair and the vice-chair of the Task Force shall be legislative members. Thereafter, the chair shall rotate annually between the respective Houses with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives naming the appropriate officer from among the legislative members. Vacancies shall be filled as necessary by the appropriate appointing authority. Appointees shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective appointing authority pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

THAT the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Status of Oklahoma Women shall serve as a continuing legislative forum to:

1. Identify and review any gender-biased laws in the Oklahoma Statutes;
2. Discuss and determine whether such laws need to or can be amended to eliminate any gender bias;

3. Review and discuss various facially neutral laws which have a gender-biased effect that could be modified or eliminated by additional legislation; and

4. Identify areas of omission in statutes that result in gender bias which could be addressed statutorily.

THAT the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Status of Oklahoma Women shall annually submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor.

THAT the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Status of Oklahoma Women shall be terminated as of January 1, 1997.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

44-2-2120

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