

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 2976

By: Pope (Clay) and Toure

An Act relating to agriculture; creating the Oklahoma Marketing Development Advisory Task Force; specifying purpose; providing for membership; providing for cochairs; providing for qualifications; providing for vacancies; specifying powers and duties; providing for reimbursement for traveling expenses; requiring a report; requiring staff assistance; providing for codification; providing an effective date; 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 362 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Marketing Development Advisory Task Force for the purpose of advising and providing information to agricultural cooperative marketing associations and other individuals desiring to make investments into and create and design joint ventures for the development and advancement of the production, processing, handling and marketing of agricultural commodities grown, made or manufactured in Oklahoma.

2. The Advisory Task Force shall consist of a representative from each of the following organizations or state agencies selected by that organization or agency:

- a. the State Department of Agriculture,
- b. the Department of Commerce,
- c. Oklahoma State University Division of Agriculture,
- d. the Office of Attorney General, and
- e. the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority.

At all times the membership of the Advisory Task Force shall have represented on it at least one member well-versed in each of the following areas: agricultural economics, marketing, business and finance, and production.

3. Each member of the Advisory Task Force initially appointed shall make his appointment known to the Director of the Department of Agriculture and the Director of the Department of Commerce by August 1, 1996.

4. Any vacancies in the appointive membership of the Advisory Task Force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

B. Within fifteen (15) days from the initial appointment of membership for the Advisory Task Force, the Director of the Department of Agriculture and the Director of the Department of Commerce shall each appoint one member of the Advisory Task Force to serve as cochair. If a vacancy occurs in such office, a new cochair shall be appointed from the Advisory Task Force in the same manner as the original appointment.

C. Other officers may be elected to serve the Advisory Task Force for terms of office as may be designated by the Advisory Task Force members. The cochair of the Advisory Task Force or their designees shall preside at meetings.

D. The Advisory Task Force may meet at such times as may be set by the cochair of the Advisory Task Force.

E. Members of the Advisory Task Force shall receive no salary; however, all members of the Advisory Task Force may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel expenses as follows:

1. Advisory Task Force members employed by the state shall be reimbursed by their respective employing agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

2. Any other Advisory Task Force member may receive reimbursement from their appointing authority.

F. A majority of the members appointed to the Advisory Task Force shall constitute a quorum and a majority present may act for the Advisory Task Force.

G. The powers and duties of the Advisory Task Force are to:

1. Conduct a study of the process and procedures for creating and designing joint ventures for agricultural cooperative marketing associations;

2. Provide information to agricultural cooperative marketing associations relating to the designing and creation of agricultural joint ventures and funding sources for such ventures; and

3. Work with municipalities, industries, state agencies and other political subdivisions of this state, other states, the federal government, schools of higher education and any other entity to determine areas of need for the development or expansion of agricultural joint ventures.

H. The Advisory Task Force shall provide a written progress report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before March 1 of each year.

I. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce shall provide staff assistance to the Advisory Task Force as necessary to assist the Advisory Task Force in the performance of its duties.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1996.

SECTION 3. 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 House of Representatives the 4th day of March, 1996.

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1996.

President of the Senate