ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 711

By: Fisher and Williams (Penny) of the Senate

and

Tyler and Voskuhl of the House

An Act relating to economic development; creating the Master Business License System Task Force; providing for membership, duties, and termination date; stating duties; requiring appointments and meetings by certain date; providing for officers, conduct of business, staff, and travel reimbursement; requiring compliance with certain laws; requiring report be filed by certain date; 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 5057 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created, to continue through June 30, 1998, the Master Business License System Task Force which shall be comprised of the following members:

1. One employee, designated by the director of each of the following state agencies, who is knowledgeable of business license,

permit, or filing requirements of the employee's respective state agency:

a. Oklahoma Department of Commerce,

b. State Department of Agriculture,

c. Corporation Commission,

d. Oklahoma Employment Security Commission,

e. Department of Environmental Quality,

f. State Department of Health,

g. Office of the Secretary of State,

h. Oklahoma Tax Commission,

i. Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and

j. such other state agencies or departments, as determined by the Secretary of Commerce;

2. A representative from the Oklahoma Municipal League, appointed by the Governor;

3. A representative of the State Chamber: Oklahoma's Association of Business and Industry, appointed by the Governor;

4. A representative of the National Federation of Independent Business, appointed by the Governor; and

5. Four representatives from private industry, appointed by the Governor.

B. The Task Force shall have the following duties:

1. Study systems implemented by other states, including the states of North Carolina and Washington, which streamline the business licensure process, reduce the paperwork burden on businesses and state agencies, and eliminate duplicate requirements;

2. Identify state business licenses, permits, and filings appropriate for inclusion in a one-stop, master business license system; and

3. Design a computerized, one-stop system capable of accepting, storing, retrieving, and exchanging, with due regard to privacy,

information required by state agencies for business licenses, permits, and filings.

C. 1. Appointments to the Task Force shall be completed, and the initial meeting of the Task Force shall be held, prior to October 1, 1996. The initial meeting shall be called by the chair of the Task Force who shall be the designee from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

2. At the initial meeting, task force members shall select a vice-chair from the private sector members and determine a schedule of meetings for the Task Force. A majority of task force members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

3. Task force meetings shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

4. Staff for the Task Force shall be provided by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

5. Members shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force but are entitled to be reimbursed by their appointing authority for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

D. The Task Force shall no later than January 1, 1998, file a report with the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which shall include the findings and recommendations of the Task Force, the design of a computerized one-stop master business license system, a cost-benefits analysis of the design, and recommendations for implementation of the design, including any required statutory changes.

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 Senate the 27th day of February, 1996.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1996.

Speaker of the House of Representatives