

ENROLLED HOUSE  
JOINT  
RESOLUTION NO. 1087

By: Hilliard of the House

and

Weedn of the Senate

A Joint Resolution relating to a State Government Internal Affairs Investigation Review Committee; recognizing certain responsibility; reciting certain findings regarding internal investigations in state government; creating State Government Internal Affairs Investigation Review Committee; providing for membership; prescribing certain procedures; providing for reimbursement; authorizing staff; prescribing duties of Committee; requiring report; providing for termination of Committee; providing for distribution; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma has a responsibility to all citizens of this state to ensure that the delivery and performance of state services are provided with efficiency and in a highly ethical environment; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the state meets this high ethical requirement, state operations, activities of employees and other activities undergo scrutiny from time to time through internal investigation by state agencies; and

WHEREAS, these internal investigations serve an important purpose in ensuring the high ethical standards of state government, and there have been concerns about potential abuses and the quality of the investigations in assessing wrongdoing and violations of state law; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous investigative units throughout state government and the quality of these investigations vary from agency to agency; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the citizens of the State of Oklahoma to ensure that these investigations are of the highest quality and coordinated in the most efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has a responsibility to review the state's internal investigations to ensure the highest quality possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. A. There is hereby created the State Government Internal Affairs Investigation Review Committee.

B. The Committee shall consist of eight (8) members; four each to be selected by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. A Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from among the members at the first meeting of the Committee. A majority of the members serving on the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

C. The Committee shall meet at such times and places as deemed necessary to perform its duties as specified in this section. Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair.

D. Members of the Committee shall be reimbursed by their appointing authorities for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members shall receive reimbursement from the house in which they serve pursuant to the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

E. The House of Representatives and Senate shall provide such staff support as required by the Committee.

F. The duties of the Committee shall be:

1. To determine the number of internal affairs investigation units in state government separately identified for each state agency and the number of employees performing internal investigations in state government;

2. To review and ascertain the quality and effectiveness of the internal affairs investigative units in state government for providing the highest capabilities of effective service;

3. To compile information from interested parties concerning the activities and processes utilized by internal investigative units to conduct their investigations;

4. To consider the consolidation of all internal investigation units to be placed under the authority of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation; and

5. To evaluate the needs and appropriateness of changes to existing laws concerning the activities of internal affairs investigations in state government.

G. The Committee shall develop a report including recommendations for changes in the state's internal affairs investigative operations to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 1996. The Committee shall be terminated as of June 1, 1997.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of State shall distribute copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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 29th day of February, 1996.

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 10th day of April, 1996.

President of the Senate