

ENROLLED HOUSE
JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1025

By: Boyd (Laura), Toure and
Satterfield of the House

and

Monson of the Senate

A Joint Resolution creating the Task Force on State Plan Options for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program; stating duties of the Task Force; providing for membership, officers, travel reimbursement and staffing for the Task Force; directing certain state agencies to provide certain information and assistance; directing distribution; and providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, individuals are responsible for providing for their own well-being and economic self-sufficiency as well as that of their family members; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of communities to provide reasonable and compassionate assistance to individuals in their efforts to provide for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, domestic abuse may make it difficult for some individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency because:

1. The physical and mental effects of past or present abuse may hinder job performance;

2. Abusive partners may attempt to sabotage their victims' education, training and employment in order to keep them economically dependent; or

3. The demands of legal actions necessary for a victim of domestic abuse to obtain or maintain safety may interfere with work, education or training; and

WHEREAS, no individual should be forced to remain in a violent living situation or place themselves or others at risk in order to obtain or remain eligible for public assistance, or because any applicable eligibility time limitation has expired; and

WHEREAS, no individual should be unfairly or unreasonably penalized because the effects of past or present domestic abuse, or the risk of future domestic abuse, may cause temporary failure to comply with requirements for public assistance; and

WHEREAS, numerous persons who have been convicted of a criminal violation of statutes related to controlled dangerous substances successfully complete substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation programs annually; and

WHEREAS, many such persons are dependent upon the availability of public assistance in order to participate in and complete substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation programs and are capable of complying with and would benefit from requirements related to education, training and employment for eligibility for public assistance; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma has options, pursuant to the provisions of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act, to extend or modify eligibility requirements for

assistance through the State Plan for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families for persons who are or have been victims of domestic abuse and persons who may have violated statutes related to substance abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. A. There is hereby created until June 1, 2000, the "Task Force on State Plan Options for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program". The Task Force may be referred to as the "TANF Options Task Force".

B. The Task Force on State Plan Options for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program shall:

1. Review:

- a. the options available to Oklahoma under the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act related to the eligibility of persons who are victims of domestic abuse or who are receiving or in need of treatment for substance abuse under the State Plan for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families pursuant to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act, and
- b. the effects or potential effects of adopting such options; and

2. Make recommendations to the Legislature on or before January 1, 1999, concerning legislation or other state action which the Task Force deems necessary or desirable.

SECTION 2. A. The Task Force on State Plan Options for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program shall consist of thirteen (13) members and shall be composed as follows:

1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the House of Representatives, one member who shall represent a statewide domestic violence association, and one member who at the time of appointment is a TANF participant;

2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint three members of the State Senate, one member who shall represent a statewide association of substance abuse treatment providers, and one member who at the time of appointment is a TANF participant;

3. The Director of the Department of Human Services or the designee of the Director;

4. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services or the designee of the Commissioner; and

5. The Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority or the designee of the Administrator.

B. The Speaker shall appoint the chair of the Task Force and the President Pro Tempore shall appoint the vice-chair from their appointees.

C. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members shall be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. The House of Representatives and Senate shall provide staff support as required by the Task Force. The Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall provide the Task Force with information and assistance as requested by the Task Force.

SECTION 3. Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to statewide domestic violence associations, statewide associations of substance abuse treatment providers, statewide associations representing substance abuse treatment consumers, the Department of

Human Services, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 1998.

Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of April, 1998.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 7th day of April, 1998.

President of the Senate