

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 1046

By: Coleman, Ross, Boyd  
(Betty) and Bonny of the  
House

and

Horner and Wilcoxson of  
the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution creating the Task Force on Reading Improvement; stating purpose; providing for membership; stating duties; providing for travel reimbursement; and providing for officers, meeting and staff.

WHEREAS, the ability to read with comprehension, skill and fluency is essential for success in school, and for success in future life; and

WHEREAS, as we enter into the twenty-first century, the ability to read is critical to personal and family prosperity; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests that it is important to provide systematic reading instruction to students in the early grades if they are to be successful in school; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the state explore all options to improve student learning by focusing on reading literacy in our public schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created to continue until July 1, 1998, the Task Force on Reading Improvement. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to review the reading levels of children in the public schools in the state, review the instructional curriculum and standards used in the public schools in the state, to study and identify instructional curriculum proven to be effective in increasing the reading proficiency of students and to make recommendations for legislative or other action needed to assure implementation of such curriculum in the schools of the state.

THAT the Task Force shall be composed of fifteen (15) members as follows:

1. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or designee;
2. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or designee;
3. An individual employed in the reading or curriculum divisions of the State Department of Education to be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;
4. Two individuals who are public school board of education members, one from a rural school district to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one from an urban school district to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
5. Two individuals who are involved in nonprofit or voluntary literacy programs, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
6. An individual who has learned to read through participation in an adult literacy program to be appointed by the Governor;
7. An elementary teacher employed in a public school in the state to be appointed by the Governor;
8. An individual who teaches or who has taught remedial reading in a public school in the state to be appointed by the Governor;

9. One parent of a child enrolled in a public elementary school in the state to be appointed by the Governor;

10. Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

11. Two members of the State Senate to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

THAT the Task Force on Reading Improvement shall:

1. Study the available data on reading levels and achievement of children in the state;

2. Review the various reading instructional curricula and reading standards currently being used in schools in the state;

3. Identify various instructional curricula that have been documented effective based on verifiable research by consulting teachers, reading organizations, institutions of higher education, parents, and other appropriate individuals and organizations; and

4. Make recommendations on the implementation of effective reading instruction in the state.

THAT the members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes from the legislative body which they serve;

2. State agency employees who are members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by their respective agencies for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

3. All other Task Force members shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

THAT the Task Force shall elect a chair and vice-chair from the legislative members of the Task Force at the first meeting. The first meeting of the Task Force shall be no later than September 1, 1997. Subsequent meetings shall be at the call of the chair. Staffing for the Task Force shall be provided by the legislative staff of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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