

SHORT TITLE: State government; creating the High Speed Passenger Rail Task Force; distribution; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

SENATE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 12

By: Herbert

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution creating the High Speed Passenger Rail Task Force; providing for membership; stating powers and duties; providing for expenditure of certain fund; requiring distribution; providing for distribution; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the federal government and several state governments are planning and implementing a High Speed Rail Network to meet the needs of their citizens for the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma should study the feasibility of a regional passenger rail transportation system for the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma should study the feasibility of high speed rail service between the City of Oklahoma City and the City of Tulsa; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature should consider the development of a passenger rail plan with an implementation schedule and a funding mechanism capable of establishing such a transportation service; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma should continue its diligent efforts to restore Amtrak service to the state.

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

SECTION 1. A. There is hereby created the "High Speed Passenger Rail Task Force".

B. The Task Force shall be comprised of seventeen (17) members consisting of six members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore, six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and five additional members, including the Secretary of Transportation, or a designee, the Secretary of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, or a designee, the Secretary of Commerce, or a designee, the Secretary of the Department of Safety and Security or a designee, and the Chair of the Corporation Commission, or a designee. A majority of the members serving on the Task Force shall constitute a quorum. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall select a Task Force co-chair and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select a Task Force co-chair.

The State Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Transportation, and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department shall provide such staff support as is required by the Task Force.

SECTION 2. A. The duties of the Task Force shall include:

1. Review the state's efforts to restore rail passenger service to Oklahoma;
2. Develop recommendations for restoration of rail passenger service in cooperation with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation;
3. Study the feasibility of implementing a high speed corridor between the City of Oklahoma City and the City of Tulsa;
4. Study the feasibility of extending rail passenger service to communities whose rail infrastructure is accessible to the high speed corridor; and
5. Develop funding options designed to implement any rail passenger service recommendations advanced by the Task Force.

B. The Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on December 1, 1997, and December 1, 1998, and at any other time the Task Force votes to submit a progress report.

SECTION 3. Any expenditure for any study or studies, or consultant contracts requested by the Task Force shall be paid from funds available pursuant to subparagraph b of paragraph 3 of Section 4 of this act.

SECTION 4. Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to each member of the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

SECTION 5. 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.

46-1-0607

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