ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 888

By: Muegge of the Senate

and

Corn of the House

An Act relating to agriculture; creating the Task Force on Agriculture Seed Banks; providing for membership of Task Force; providing for appointment of chairperson and vice-chairperson; providing for meetings; providing for reimbursement for certain travel expenses; providing for staff support; setting forth duties of Task Force; requiring certain report; providing for termination of Task Force; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Task Force on Agriculture Seed Banks.

B. The Task Force shall consist of fifteen (15) members to be appointed by July 1, 2000, as follows:

1. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint seven members as follows:

a. four members of the State Senate, and

b. three members representing the seed industry; and

2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint five members as follows:

a. four members of the House of Representatives, and

b. the Dean of the Division of Agriculture of Oklahoma State University or designee; and

3. The Chairperson of the House Agriculture Committee; and

4. The Chairperson of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee; and

5. The Secretary of Agriculture or designee.

C. The chairperson of the Task Force shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and shall be one of the appointees of the President Pro Tempore. The vice-chairperson of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall be one of the appointees of the Speaker.

D. The Task Force shall meet at such times and places as it deems necessary to perform its duties as specified in this section. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair. A majority of the members serving on the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

E. Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by their appointing authorities 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. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force 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; and

3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be reimbursed by the State Department of Agriculture for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

F. The Oklahoma State Senate and the House of Representatives shall provide such staff support as is required by the Task Force.

G. It shall be the duty of the Task Force to develop recommendations relating to the operation of a state seed bank to provide facilities for the processing and storage of adequate supplies of high-quality seed necessary to protect the genetic integrity and diversity of plant species.

H. The Task Force shall develop recommendations relating to agriculture seed banks and shall submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than January 31, 2001. The Task Force shall be terminated as of March 1, 2001.

SECTION 2. 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 28th day of February, 2000.

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President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2000.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives