

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 862

By: Muegge of the Senate

and

Maddux and Pope (Clay) of
the House

An Act relating to agriculture; creating a legislative advisory task force to study the commodity storage system in Oklahoma, the contract production of agricultural commodities and the operation of a state seed bank; providing powers and duties; requiring report; providing for quorum and staffing; directing the State Department of Agriculture to make certain reimbursement; limiting affect of such reimbursement; providing funding for reimbursement; 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 a legislative advisory task force to study the commodity storage system in Oklahoma, the issues relating to contracting between growers and integrators of all agricultural products and the operation of a state seed bank.

B. The advisory task force shall consist of four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

C. The advisory task force shall be in effect from June 1, 2000, to February 1, 2001. The advisory task force shall hold an organizational meeting no later than June 15, 2000, for the purpose of electing a chair and cochair from among its members and determining the course of action.

D. 1. The advisory task force shall investigate and study the commodity storage system in Oklahoma, including but not limited to, the administration of the Commodity Storage Indemnity Fund, and determine whether changes in the statutes or rules of the State Department of Agriculture are advisable.

2. The advisory task force shall study the contract production of agricultural commodities, including but not limited to, poultry

and swine and determine whether changes in the statutes or rules of the State Department of Agriculture are advisable.

3. The advisory task force shall 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.

4. The task force shall prepare a report during the last three (3) months of its existence.

5. The report shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon completion, but no later than February 1, 2001.

E. Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel expenses from the house in which they serve, as provided in Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, except when the Legislature is in session and the meeting is held in Oklahoma City.

F. A majority of the members appointed to the advisory task force shall constitute a quorum, and a majority present may act for the task force.

G. Staff from the State Department of Agriculture and legislative staff shall assist members of the advisory task force in duties pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

The State Board of Agriculture shall, pursuant to the Public Warehouse and Commodity Indemnity Act, reimburse from the Commodity Storage Indemnity Fund grain producers, including holders of deferred payment contracts and expired deferred pricing contracts, for their losses incurred as a result of the failure of state chartered grain warehouses in Cashion, Oklahoma, and Orienta, Oklahoma.

This reimbursement by the State Board of Agriculture shall in no way affect the status or validity of deferred payment, deferred pricing, or any contracts held by other state chartered or federally licensed public warehouses in Oklahoma.

The State Board of Agriculture shall utilize indemnity funds to expeditiously reimburse all producers affected by these losses.

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 Senate the 16th day of May, 2000.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of May, 2000.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives