

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED  
SENATE BILL 149

By: Wilcoxson of the Senate

and

Ferguson, Ingmire, Nance,  
Cox and Hefner of the House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to higher education; creating the Task Force on State Scholarship and Student Aid Grant Programs; providing for appointments, officers, duties, compensation, reimbursement, and staff support for certain task force; requiring certain report; 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 until December 15, 2001, the Task Force on State Scholarship and Student Aid Grant Programs. The task force shall evaluate the postsecondary financial aid resources available to students in Oklahoma and the effectiveness of those resources toward increasing the number of college graduates in Oklahoma.

B. The task force shall be comprised of the following members:

1. The Chancellor of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, or designee, who shall serve as chair of the task force;

2. A student financial aid official representing the public comprehensive universities, to be appointed by the Chancellor;

3. A student financial aid official representing the public regional universities, to be appointed by the Chancellor;

4. A student financial aid official representing the public two-year colleges, to be appointed by the Chancellor;

5. A student financial aid official representing the independent colleges of Oklahoma, to be appointed by the Governor;

6. The chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, or designee;

7. The chair of the House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education, or designee;

8. The chair of the Senate Education Committee, or designee;

9. The chair of the House Higher Education Committee, or designee;

10. The Secretary of Education, or designee;

11. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee;

12. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, or designee; and

13. Two members to be appointed by the Governor.

C. Staff assistance shall be provided by the Oklahoma State Senate, the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

D. The task force shall:

1. Examine the projected costs of state scholarship and student aid grant programs;

2. Identify the goals and objectives of state scholarship and student aid grant programs;

3. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing financial aid resources available to Oklahoma students;

4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the various outreach efforts by the higher education and common education communities to make students aware of the student scholarship, tuition aid grant, and other financial assistance opportunities available for college;

5. Evaluate the state student aid grant and scholarship programs in relation to the federal Hope Tax Credit, the federal Lifetime Learning Tax Credit, and any additional federal or state tax benefits for postsecondary education; and

6. Submit a report by December 14, 2001, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report shall include findings and recommendations for the creation, deletion, expansion, or reduction of any state scholarship and student aid grant programs and order of priority for funding of state scholarship and student aid grant programs.

E. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for serving on the task force, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. State employees who are members of the task force shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act;

2. All other task force members shall be reimbursed by the appointing authority for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

3. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

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.