

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1043

By: Turner

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to discipline in schools; creating the Task Force on Discipline in Schools; stating purpose of Task Force; providing for study of certain issues; requiring recommendations; stating membership; providing for meetings, officers, staffing and travel reimbursement; providing for termination of Task Force; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, schools should be safe and secure places for all students, teachers and staff members; and

WHEREAS, without a safe learning environment, teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 students ages 12 through 18 throughout the United States were victims of about 2.5 million total crimes at school, with about 186,000 being serious violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, from 1995 through 1999 teachers were victims of approximately 1,708,000 nonfatal crimes at school, including 1,073,000 thefts and 635,000 violent crimes, which translates into 79 crimes per 1,000 teachers per year; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma schools reported over 1,000 incidents of student assault against other students, teachers and staff; over 6,000 acts of vandalism or criminal mischief against school property, student property and teacher and staff property; and over 17,000 incidents on school buses for the 1999-2000 school year; and

WHEREAS, the public continuously identifies student discipline in schools as one of the top issues affecting public education; and

WHEREAS, many teachers leaving the profession state aberrant student behavior and lack of discipline as a cause for leaving.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created the Task Force on Discipline in Schools. The purpose of the Task Force is to study the problems and issues with discipline in the public schools, including a review of all relevant state and federal statutes and rules and local school district policies.

THAT the Task Force shall make recommendations to the Legislature by December 15, 2002, in order to effect a better and safer learning environment.

THAT the Task Force shall consist of the following members:

1. Three members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the House to chair the Task Force;

2. Three members of the Oklahoma Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to serve as vice-chair of the Task Force;

3. Five members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as follows:

- a. one member representing local school boards of education,
- b. one member representing school superintendents,
- c. one member representing school principals,
- d. one member representing classroom teachers, and
- e. one member representing parents;

4. Five members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as follows:

- a. one member representing local school boards of education,
- b. one member representing school superintendents,
- c. one member representing school principals,
- d. one member representing classroom teachers, and
- e. one member representing parents.

THAT the first meeting of the Task Force shall take place no later than October 1, 2002. The Task Force shall meet at such times and places as deemed necessary to perform its duties as specified in this resolution. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair. Staffing for the Task Force shall be provided by the staff of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and by the State Department of Education.

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 in which they serve; and

2. Other members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective appointing authorities in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

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