

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE BILL 708

By: Cain

An Act relating to children's health; creating the Task Force on the Promotion of Children's Health; providing for membership, officers, meetings, travel reimbursement and staff support; setting forth duties; providing for termination; 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 the Promotion of Children's Health.

B. The Task Force shall consist of twelve (12) members to be appointed by July 1, 2001, as follows:

1. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint four members as follows:

- a. a representative from the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program of the Department of Human Services,
- b. a college professor in the area of allied nutrition,
- c. a representative from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and
- d. a pediatrician;

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

- a. a representative from an urban Indian health clinic,
- b. a pediatric endocrinologist,
- c. a child advocate representing Hispanic children, and
- d. a representative of the Department of Education;

3. The Governor shall appoint four members as follows:

- a. a Doctor of Pharmacy,
- b. a physical therapist or exercise therapist,
- c. a child advocate representing African-American children, and
- d. a school counselor.

C. The task force shall elect from among its member a chair and vice chair.

D. The task force shall hold an initial meeting not later than September 1, 2001 and, thereafter, 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 by their appointing authorities for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their 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:

1. Study the ability of various entities, including the Governor, to raise public awareness of the problems surrounding the incidence of obesity in children;

2. Investigate the feasibility of the State Board of Education creating and promoting a healthy schools initiative with awards for performance and results;

3. Analyze the success of best practices models, such as "Schools for Healthy Lifestyles" program in the Oklahoma City Public Schools;

4. Ascertain quantifiable local and statewide data;

5. Promote better use of various facilities, such as utilization of physical activity facilities after hours;

6. Consider the feasibility of all schools participating in the Youth Risk Behaviors Survey (YRBS), and assistance to YRBS schools in developing nutrition and physical activity plans;

7. Determine ways to encourage schools to offer nutritious snacks in soft drink and snack vending machines;

8. Examine avenues to work with school cafeteria personnel on service of more appetizing nutritious foods; and

9. Determine ways to encourage community-based groups or coalitions to support healthy eating and physical activity.

H. The task force shall develop recommendations relating to the promotion of children's health by reducing obesity through nutrition and physical activity and shall make recommendations for any resulting legislation. The task force shall be terminated as of January 1, 2002.

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.