STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 1300 By: Turner of the House

and

Gumm of the Senate

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to rural economic development; creating the Rural Area Development Task Force; providing for membership; providing for selection of officers; providing for application of certain statutory provisions; prescribing study by Task Force; authorizing request for assistance; providing for staff assistance; requiring review of prior recommendations; requiring final report; providing for travel reimbursement; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Section 8225, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2002 (74 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 8225), which relates to the Greenwood Area Redevelopment Authority; modifying due date of long-term plan; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8302 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Rural Area Development Task Force. The Task Force shall consist of eleven (11) members to be selected as follows:

1. One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2. One member to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

3. Five members to be appointed by the Governor, each of whom shall have demonstrated experience or interest in one or more issues

affecting rural development, including, but not limited to, private sector financial expertise, economic development at the state or local level, agricultural economics, health care services, communications technology, business site location decisions, rural housing or such other areas of expertise as the Governor deems to be in the best interests of service as a member of the Task Force;

4. One member who shall be the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce or a designee;

5. One member who shall be the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry or a designee;

6. One member to be selected by the board of directors of Rural Enterprises, Inc.; and

7. One member to be selected by Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils, with the advice and consent of each of the substate planning districts.

B. The Task Force shall select from among its membership a chair and vice-chair. The Task Force shall be authorized to meet at such times as may be required in order to perform the duties imposed upon it by law.

C. The Task Force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

D. The Task Force shall study and examine ways in which the State of Oklahoma:

1. Can effectively develop its rural economy;

2. Promote rural areas of the State of Oklahoma for purposes of business site location efforts;

3. Support existing efforts to assist rural areas of the state with economic development efforts;

4. Can modify existing incentives or create additional incentives that are likely to result in the formation of business capital and job creation which directly benefits the communities located in primarily rural areas of the state;

5. Can modify existing incentives or create additional incentives that promote and support individuals engaged in agriculture, aquaculture, farming, ranching, agricultural product processing and all forms of business activity that add significant value to inputs developed with labor and capital originating from the state; and

6. Take such other actions as may be conducive to the improvement of the rural Oklahoma economy and creation of quality employment in rural areas and to enhance the quality of life for rural residents.

E. The Task Force may request such assistance as it may require from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, and such other entities of state government as the Task Force may deem relevant to its mission and duties.

F. Staff assistance for the Task Force shall be provided by the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the State Senate.

G. The Task Force shall examine the final recommendations of any previous Task Force, Commission, working group, association or other entity that has previously undertaken a study of rural economic development efforts within the ten (10) years preceding the effective date of this act. The Task Force shall determine the extent to which any of such recommendations have been implemented, either pursuant to changes in state law or policy, and to the extent possible, the Task Force shall determine whether the implementation of the recommendation from such prior studies was effective.

H. The Task Force shall develop recommendations specifically designed to improve the economic development of rural areas of the State of Oklahoma, whether through formation of business capital, job creation, job training, agricultural development, small business

formation and entrepreneurship programs, or other method identified by the Task Force as having potential for improvement of economic and related conditions in rural areas of the state. The recommendations shall be contained in a final report to be submitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate not later than December 31, 2003.

I. Travel reimbursement for the members of the Task Force shall be provided by the appointing authorities. Legislators who are members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed pursuant to Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 8225, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2002 (74 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 8225), is amended to read as follows:

Section 8225. A. In addition to other responsibilities imposed upon it by law, the Greenwood Area Redevelopment Authority shall develop a long-term plan for the redevelopment of the Greenwood Area. The Authority may engage the services of such advisors, consultants or other persons or business entities as may be required in order to formulate the plan.

B. The plan shall include:

1. An assessment of the existing conditions of the Greenwood Area, including, but not limited to:

a. population,

b. per capita income,

c. employment or unemployment rates,

d. workforce characteristics,

e. assessed value,

f. existing land use regulations or restrictions,

g. available utilities such as water, electricity, solid and other waste disposal and access to

telecommunication services, including but not limited to conventional or fiber optic cable,

h. identification of persons or entities doing business within the Greenwood Area,

i. identification of existing infrastructure such as water, sewer, roads, and other public sector assets which are material to business location, business investment and business reinvestment decisions,

j. traffic volume and characteristics,

k. any existing economic development incentives applicable to persons or entities within the Greenwood Area, including but not limited to areas which qualify as enterprise zones pursuant to Section 690.1 et seq. of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes and any existing or proposed increment or incentive districts pursuant to the Local Development Act, Section 850 et seq. of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and

l. such other demographic data or characteristics as the Authority or its consultants or advisors consider to be relevant to the mission and responsibilities imposed upon the Authority pursuant to this section;

2. Specific recommendations regarding the redevelopment and reinvestment of capital within the Greenwood Area, including, but not limited to recommendations regarding the uses of real property most conducive to the redevelopment and reinvestment of the Greenwood Area, whether for residential dwellings, wholesale or retail business activity, commercial and industrial activity, governmental uses, community assets such as parks and similar development, and such other uses of the Greenwood Area real property most conducive to a sustained and viable redevelopment and reinvestment resulting in a productive use of the real property and improvements located within the Greenwood Area;

3. An analysis of the efforts of other states or political subdivisions with respect to the redevelopment and reinvestment of areas with economic characteristics similar to the Greenwood Area with recommendations to duplicate successful models or programs, whether through the stimulation of private investment, the use of government resources to stimulate private investment, community development programs and other methods as deemed advisable by the Authority;

4. A specific list of resources that might be utilized in the redevelopment and reinvestment effort, including, but not limited to:

a. federal grants or loans or programs offered through any federal agency such as the United States Department of Commerce and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development,

b. state programs available to individuals or business entities, whether in the form of grants or loans or other programs, which would have the effect of stimulating redevelopment and reinvestment in the Greenwood Area,

c. local programs available to individuals or business entities which would have the effect of stimulating redevelopment and reinvestment in the Greenwood Area, and

d. any program or resource available through private not-for-profit organizations that would be compatible with the goals and objectives of the Authority with respect to its duties for the development of the long-term plan and the identification of specific actions which could be taken to stimulate redevelopment and reinvestment in the Greenwood Area; and

5. A projected timetable with specific dates to achieve the recommended development of the Greenwood Area including specific actions to be taken by persons, business entities, financial service providers, contractors, consultants, or other persons or entities in order to achieve the recommendations of the Authority within a realistic period of time.

C. The long-term plan of the Authority shall be presented to the mayor of the City of Tulsa, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Governor not later than ~~July~~ September 1, 2003.

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.

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