

By: Wilkerson of the Senate
and
Staggs of the House

An Act relating to corrections; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Section 669, which relates to the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women; modifying duties; directing a task force be formed to study incarceration of women; allowing subcommittees; directing cooperation from specific agencies and others; specifying dates for certain study; requiring a report by certain date; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 669, is amended to read as follows:

Section 669. The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women shall have the power and the duty to:

1. ~~Act as an advisory entity~~ Advise on equity issues relating to gender bias ~~not only to,~~ state agencies and employees, ~~but to~~ communities, organizations and businesses of this state which desire the services of the Commission;
2. ~~Act as a monitor on~~ Monitor legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender ~~or the other~~ or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation;
3. Act as a resource and a clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias;
4. Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and
5. ~~Make an annual report~~ Report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of

Representatives of its activities ~~under this act.~~ ~~Such~~ The report recommendations may include recommendations concerning needed legislation or regulatory changes relating to equity and gender bias, including the status of incarcerated women and the effects on families and children of incarcerated parents.

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

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is hereby directed to form a task force to study the status of women incarcerated in Oklahoma. The Legislature recognizes that Oklahoma has consistently maintained the number one position in the nation on the number of incarcerated women per capita and that the long term effect of this fact may be the result of gender bias, policies, procedures, or other factors which have a direct bearing on government, families, children and citizens of this state. The Commission may select and appoint subcommittees as deemed appropriate to conduct this study. The study shall begin on July 1, 2003, and a report of its findings and recommendations shall be presented to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 10, 2004. The Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, the Department of Corrections, the District Attorneys Council, and other state agencies are directed to cooperate in helping the task force complete the study of the status of incarcerated women.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2003.

SECTION 4. 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 4th day of March, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2003.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives