ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 810

By: Wilkerson of the Senate

and

Staggs of the House

An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Section 669, which relates to the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women; modifying duties; creating the Special Task Force for Women Incarcerated in Oklahoma; stating purposes; establishing membership; providing for reimbursement; providing staff support; requiring a report; providing for noncodification; 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.

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

A. There is hereby created the Special Task Force for Women Incarcerated in Oklahoma. The purpose of the Task Force is to study factors that have resulted in Oklahoma being one of the highest among the states in the rate of incarceration of women. The Task Force shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the inmate's education and literacy level, gender bias, policies, and procedures that may have contributed to the high incarceration rate of women in Oklahoma.

B. The Task Force shall be composed of the following eleven (11) members:

1. The Lieutenant Governor or a designee;

2. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;

3. Two members of the State Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate;

4. The Director of the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center or a designee;

5. The Executive Coordinator of the District Attorneys Council or a designee;

6. The Director of the State Department of Corrections or a designee;

7. The Director of the Department of Human Services or a designee; and

8. The chair and vice-chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women.

C. The initial meeting of the Task Force shall be called by the chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women and held by July 15, 2003. A chair and vice-chair of the Task Force shall be elected at the initial meeting. The Task Force may elect other officers as it deems necessary. The Task Force may create subcommittees as it deems necessary to its study.

D. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force, but they 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; and

2. Other members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in

accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act from monies available to the entities that they represent.

E. Staffing for the Special Task Force for Women Incarcerated in Oklahoma shall be provided by the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center. Additional staff expertise may be provided by the staff of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the State Senate, the State Department of Corrections, the District Attorneys Council, and other state agencies that may be identified by the Task Force with resources that shall assist it with its work.

F. The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 10, 2004.

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.

Passed the Senate the 7th day of May, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of April, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives