

By: Riley of the Senate
and
Lamons of the House

[task force - Youthful Offender Act - effective
date -

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 a task force to study the Youthful
Offender Act, its implementation and effectiveness at treatment,
placement, supervision and transferring juveniles adjudicated
pursuant to the act. The task force shall be called the "Youthful
Offender Task Force of 2005".

B. The purpose of the task force is to evaluate the
effectiveness of the Youthful Offender Act, study best practices for
similar types of adjudicated juveniles in other states and
jurisdictions, the ability and effects of transferring youth to the
Department of Corrections, and to make recommendations for changes,
modifications or revisions to the act.

C. There shall be thirteen (13) members of the task force to
include:

1. The Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or designee;
2. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or designee;
3. The Director of the Department of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services, or designee;
4. One judge assigned responsibilities for a juvenile docket,
to be appointed by the Governor;

5. One district attorney assigned responsibilities for juvenile cases, to be appointed by the Governor;

6. One director of a youth services agency, to be appointed by the Governor;

7. One person assigned responsibilities for a child advocacy organization, to be appointed by the Governor;

8. The executive director of the largest organization in the state with responsibilities to represent state employees, to be appointed by the Governor;

9. Two members of the House of Representatives, one to be a Republican and one to be a Democrat, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

10. Two members of the Senate, one to be a Republican and one to be a Democrat, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

11. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, or designee.

D. All members of the task force shall receive travel reimbursements pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. A chair and a vice-chair shall be elected from the membership at the initial meeting of the task force. The task force shall have its initial meeting on or before July 15, 2005, to be set by the Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs; thereafter, the task force shall meet at the call of the chair, or in the absence of the chair at the call of the vice-chair. The task force may establish subcommittees as necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

F. The task force shall prepare a written report at the conclusion of the study with recommendations and findings, if any. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before January 6, 2006.

G. The Office of Juvenile Affairs with the assistance of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall provide administrative support to the task force as needed. The task force may utilize the statistical analysis and data research services of the Criminal Justice Resource Center, as needed.

H. All meetings of the task force shall comply with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

I. Upon submission of the task force report, all duties and responsibilities shall cease and the task force shall be officially dissolved on or before January 31, 2006.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

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 2nd day of March, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2005.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives