ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 896

By: Nichols of the Senate

and

Peterson (Ron) of the House

[state government - Task Force on State and Education Employee Insurance - 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 the "Task Force on State and Education Employee Insurance" to sunset on December 31, 2006. The purpose of the task force is to provide plan design alternatives for the State and Education Employees Group Health Insurance Plan.

B. The task force shall consist of five (5) members as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2. Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

3. The Director of the Office of State Finance, or designee.

C. The Director of the Office of State Finance shall convene an organizational meeting of the task force no later than September 1, 2005. The members of the task force shall elect a chair and vice-chair.

D. The task force shall meet at such times and places as deemed necessary to perform its duties as specified in this section. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair. Staffing assistance for the task force shall be provided by the Office of State Finance.

E. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for serving on the task force, but may receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the task force may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, from the legislative body in which they serve; and

2. Other members of the task force may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective appointing authorities in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

F. The task force shall:

1. Through the Office of State Finance, contract with an actuary to study plan design and funding alternatives for the State and Education Employees Group Health Insurance Plan;

2. Set the scope and parameters of the study. The actuarial study will include, but not be limited to:

a. the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB) offering a point-of-service (POS) product, either in addition to or in the place of the current plan,

b. limiting choices to those offered by the state self-insured plan,

c. pharmaceutical plan design and pharmaceutical benefit manager options,

d. increasing the provider network offered by OSEEGIB,

e. comparing the plan offered to state employees and teachers to those offered by similar employers, other states and the federal government,

f. OSEEGIB offering a Health Savings Account in addition to the current plan,

g. OSEEGIB requiring state employees to participate in a wellness program offered by OSEEGIB, and

h. OSEEGIB offering a consumer-driven health benefit plan in addition to the current plan; and

3. Submit a report on the findings and recommendations of the task force to the Governor and Legislature by February 1, 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 15th day of March, 2005.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives