

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 1549

By: Lerblance of the Senate

and

Sweeden of the House

An Act relating to prescribed burning; creating the Oklahoma Prescribed Burning Safety and Liability Task Force; providing for membership of task force; providing for appointment of chair and vice-chair; providing for meetings; providing for reimbursement for certain travel expenses; providing for staff; setting forth duties of task force; providing for termination of task force; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an 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 Oklahoma Prescribed Burning Safety and Liability Task Force.

B. The task force shall consist of the members of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives Agriculture and Rural Development Committees and representatives of the following state agencies:

1. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission or appointee;

2. The Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry or appointee;

3. The Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation Commission or appointee; and

4. The Dean and Director of the Oklahoma State University College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources or appointee.

C. The chair of the task force shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate and the vice-chair of the task force shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

D. The task force shall meet at such times and places as it deems necessary to perform its duties as specified in this section. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair. A majority of the members serving on the task force shall constitute a quorum.

E. Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as follows:

1. Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed by their appointing authorities for their 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 which they serve; and

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

F. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the Wildlife Conservation Commission shall provide staff as is required by the task force. The Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives shall provide staff support as needed by the task force.

G. The task force shall act in a capacity to study the responsible precaution of prescribed burning, the liabilities incurred by accident, neglect, or intent, and the punishments for such actions.

H. The task force may make legislative recommendations as they deem necessary.

I. The task force shall be terminated as of December 31, 2006.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

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 22nd day of May, 2006.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 24th day of May, 2006.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives