

3 Senate Bill No. 1632

4 SENATE BILL NO. 1632 - By: JOHNSON (Constance) of the Senate and
5 TOURE of the House.

6 An Act relating to public health and safety; amending
7 Section 1, Chapter 391, O.S.L. 2003, as amended by Section
8 1, Chapter 192, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 1-
9 560.1), which relates to the Oklahoma Task Force to
10 Eliminate Health Disparities; extending the Oklahoma Task
11 Force to Eliminate Health Disparities; and providing an
12 effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 391, O.S.L.
15 2003, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 192, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S.
16 Supp. 2005, Section 1-560.1), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1-560.1 A. There is hereby created to continue until
18 July 1, ~~2006~~ 2008, the Oklahoma Task Force to Eliminate Health
19 Disparities.

20 B. 1. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to assist the
21 State Department of Health in accomplishing the following goals:

22 a. eliminating health and health access disparities in
23 Oklahoma among multicultural, disadvantaged and
24 regional populations, and

25 b. developing strategies in the elimination of health
26 disparities among multicultural, disadvantaged and
27 regional populations in the areas of cardiovascular

1 disease, infant mortality, diabetes, cancer, adult and
2 child immunizations, mental illness and substance
3 abuse.

4 2. The Task Force shall:

- 5 a. investigate and report on issues related to
6 disparities in health and health access among
7 multicultural, disadvantaged and regional populations.
8 Such issues may include the definition of health
9 disparities, insurance, transportation, geographic
10 isolation and rural area availability of health care
11 providers, cultural competency of providers, severity
12 of poverty among multicultural groups, education as it
13 relates to health, and behaviors that lead to poor
14 health status,
- 15 b. recommend short-term and long-term strategies to
16 eliminate health and health access disparities among
17 multicultural, disadvantaged and regional populations,
- 18 c. publish a report on the findings of the Task Force,
19 and
- 20 d. advise the Department on the implementation of any
21 targeted programs or funding authorized by the
22 Legislature to address health and health access
23 disparities.

1 3. In performing the duties described in this subsection, the
2 Task Force shall consult with the Department, the Office of Minority
3 Health, the Community Development Service, and any other relevant
4 division within or outside of the Department, the Department of
5 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and other state and
6 local government agencies.

7 C. 1. The Task Force shall consist of fifteen (15) members to
8 be appointed as follows:

9 a. The Governor shall appoint three members, one each
10 representing faith-based communities, the business
11 community and the labor community,

12 b. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint
13 three members, one each representing the Legislature,
14 charitable or community organizations, and a racial or
15 ethnic group affected by health disparities,

16 c. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
17 appoint three members, one each representing the
18 Legislature, charitable or community organizations,
19 and a racial or ethnic group affected by health
20 disparities,

21 d. The State Commissioner of Health shall appoint three
22 members, one each representing community-based health

1 organizations, the government, and health care
2 organizations, and

3 e. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health
4 and Substance Abuse Services shall appoint, by July 1,
5 2004, three members with expertise in the treatment of
6 mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

7 2. In making appointments, the appointing authorities shall
8 give consideration to appointing individuals from both urban and
9 rural geographic areas of the state.

10 D. 1. The Governor shall designate two members of the Task
11 Force to serve as chair and vice-chair.

12 2. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing
13 authorities. Vacancies on the Task Force shall be filled not later
14 than the ninetieth day after the date a position becomes vacant. A
15 majority of the members serving on the Task Force shall constitute a
16 quorum.

17 3. The Task Force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of
18 the chair. The chair of the Task Force shall convene the first
19 meeting of the Task Force not later than September 1, 2003.

20 4. Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by their
21 appointing authorities for necessary travel expenses incurred in the
22 performance of their duties in accordance with the provisions of the
23 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

1 5. Staff support and facilities for the Task Force shall be
2 provided by the State Department of Health.

3 E. The Task Force shall annually submit a report on the
4 progress of the State Department of Health and the Department of
5 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in achieving the goals
6 outlined in this section.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES, dated
9 2-9-06 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.