

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2881

By: McDaniel

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; creating the Task Force on Children and Adoptive Parent Services; providing for membership; providing for appointment of cochairs; providing for travel reimbursement; providing for administrative support; providing for duties; requiring certain report; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7004-1.8 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created, to continue until February 1, 2007, the "Task Force on Children and Adoptive Parent Services".

B. The Task Force shall consist of fifteen (15) members:

1. Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives as follows:

- a. one member who is a mental health expert knowledgeable in behavioral and mental problems of children,
- b. one member who is a practicing attorney in the area of child welfare and who is an active member of the Family Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association,
- c. two members who are adoptive parents of children with behavioral or mental problems, and
- d. one member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2. Five members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate as follows:

- a. one member who is a practicing attorney in the area of adoption and parental relinquishment of adopted children,
- b. one representative of a statewide child advocacy organization,
- c. one member who specializes in educating children with behavioral and mental problems,
- d. one juvenile court judge, and
- e. one member of the State Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate;

3. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or a designee;

4. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, or a designee;

5. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or a designee;

6. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or a designee; and

7. The Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, or a designee.

C. The appointed member from the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the appointed member from the State Senate shall serve as cochairs of the Task Force. The cochairs shall convene the first meeting of the Task Force. The members of the Task Force shall elect any other officers during the first meeting and upon a vacancy in any office. The Task Force shall meet as often as necessary.

D. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by July 1, 2006.

E. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the members present at a meeting may act for the Task Force.

F. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by their respective agencies for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of duties pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

G. Administrative support for the Task Force including, but not limited to, personnel necessary to ensure the proper performance of the duties and responsibilities of the Task Force, shall be provided by the Department of Human Services to be supplemented, if necessary, by the state agencies involved in the Task Force, and the staff of the House of Representatives and the State Senate. All participating state agencies shall provide for any administrative support requested by the Task Force.

H. The Task Force shall:

1. Study and make recommendations concerning the development and funding of mental health and placement needs of children and youth throughout the State of Oklahoma;

2. Study and make recommendations concerning Severely Emotionally Disturbed Kids and the 1915C Waiver;

3. Study and make recommendations concerning services, education, counseling, and support groups for children and parents of children with behavioral and mental disorders; and

4. Study and make recommendations concerning parental relinquishment of a child who is a physical threat to the family of that child, and certain alternatives to relinquishment.

I. The Task Force shall publish a report of findings and recommendations by February 1, 2007, including recommendations for any resulting legislation.

SECTION 2. 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.

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