

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1834

By: Wilson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; stating legislative findings; recreating the Joint Legislative Task Force on Patient Safety; stating purpose of task force; specifying membership of task force; specifying staffing of task force; providing for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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. The Legislature finds that licensed health care professionals and health care facilities must play an active role in developing systems to improve patient safety. The Legislature further finds that actively working to improve patient care and reduce harm is in the best interest of the public, licensed health care professionals and health care facilities

B. There is recreated the Joint Legislative Task Force on Patient Safety. The purpose of the task force shall be:

1. To study the feasibility of legislative or regulatory efforts designed to improve patient safety that include, but need not be limited to:

- a. implementation of licensed health care professionals licensure requirements for risk management training,

- b. provision of premium discounts on malpractice insurance based on licensed health care professionals performance,
- c. provision of partial subsidies of licensed health care professionals' premiums under various health plans, Medicaid and Medicare in return for specific safety enhancements,
- d. investment by licensed health care professionals in tools such as electronic prescribing aids and automated systems for tracking of tests, and
- e. improved collection and reporting of information on patient safety in order to facilitate safety improvement and physician involvement; and

2. To define the structure of an independent entity to coordinate patient safety initiatives in this state. In defining such structure, the task force shall incorporate the following provisions into the functions of the independent entity:

- a. creation of patient safety centers and financing mechanisms,
- b. development of purchasing incentives for state health care purchasing,
- c. appointment of patient safety officers,
- d. use of information technology within facilities, and
- e. work force issues.

C. 1. The task force shall be composed of six members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore, and six members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker.

2. In addition, the following representatives shall serve on the task force:

- a. the Director of the Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision,
- b. the Director of the Oklahoma Board of Osteopathic Examiners,
- c. the Director of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, and
- d. the director of a statewide association representing hospitals.
- e. a representative from a statewide association representing physicians,
- f. a representative from a statewide association representing allopathic physicians, and
- g. a representative from a statewide association representing registered nurses.

3. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint the chair of the task force from among the Senate members and the Speaker shall appoint the vice-chair of the task force from among the House members.

D. The chair of the task force shall convene the first meeting of the task force.

E. Staffing for the task force shall be provided by the staffs of the State Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

F. The task force shall issue a report of its findings to the Legislature on or before January 31, 2007.

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