STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 939 By: Wilcoxson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; stating legislative findings; creating the Administrative and Educational Leadership Task Force; stating purpose; providing for appointment of members; stating duties; requiring report to certain officials and setting deadline; prohibiting compensation of members; authorizing reimbursement for travel expenses; providing for staff assistance; 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. 1. The Legislature finds that effective leadership is inextricably linked to excellence in public education and student academic achievement in public schools. The Standards of the Educational Leadership Constituent Council acknowledge that the principal is the "instructional leader of the school and is responsible for effective school management that promotes student achievement, a safe and secure environment in which to teach and learn, and efficient use of resources" and also recognize the "critically important role of principals to the success of public schools and the students who attend those schools". The differing role and responsibilities of superintendents, principals, assistant principals, and teachers for providing a system of public education of the highest quality merit ongoing consideration and reviews as the State of Oklahoma strives to provide opportunities for learning and achievement for all students.

2. A summit on educational leadership has been conducted, embracing the input of participants from the Governor's office, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, members of the Legislature, and educational stakeholders and practitioners, and prompted by concerns regarding the changing roles and demands of educational leaders, the Legislature finds that it is necessary to create the Administrative and Educational Leadership Task Force to review, study and reform educational leadership.

B. There is hereby created until December 31, 2005, the Administrative and Educational Leadership Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to review, study and make recommendations to reform educational leadership in this state.

C. The task force shall be composed of fifteen (15) members as follows:

1. One member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2. One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3. One member of the Senate appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

4. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

5. One superintendent of an urban school district to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6. One principal of a rural or suburban school to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

7. One administrator of technology center school appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

8. One faculty member from an institution of higher education who teaches in the area of education administration to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

9. Four members appointed by the Governor as follows:

a. one representative of a statewide organization representing school board members,

b. one representative of a statewide organization representing school administrators,

c. one representative of a statewide coalition for business and education, and

d. one classroom teacher;

10. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee;

11. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or designee; and

12. The Chancellor of the State Regents for Higher Education.

D. The Chancellor of the State Regents for Higher Education shall serve as chair of the task force. The chair shall convene the first meeting of the task force on or before October 1, 2005.

E. The task force shall:

1. Evaluate the policy environment for educational leadership;

2. Propose necessary statutory amendments or changes based on research, surveys, analysis and review of pertinent laws, guidelines, policies, regulations and practices;

3. Communicate any relevant findings with recommendations for needed regulatory action regularly to the Legislature and the Governor;

4. Provide a forum for educational leaders to report the challenges and effect of their work to the task force; and

5. Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2005.

F. 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 duties in

accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, from the legislative body in which they serve;

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

G. The staff of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall provide staff support for the task force. The State Department of Education and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall provide information and assistance as requested by the task force.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 2005.

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