

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 3350

By: Terrill, McMullen, Reynolds  
and Kern of the House

3 and

4 Brogdon of the Senate

5  
6  
7 An Act relating to initiative and referendum;  
8 creating the Task Force on Review of Oklahoma's  
9 Petition Process; providing for membership; providing  
10 for appointment of chair; providing for travel  
reimbursement; providing for administrative support;  
11 providing for duties; requiring report; providing for  
12 noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
15 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

16 A. There is hereby created to continue until December 31, 2009,  
17 the Task Force on Review of Oklahoma's Petition Process. The  
18 purpose of the Task Force shall be to review and study the current  
19 laws governing Oklahoma's referendum and initiative petition process  
20 for submitting questions to a vote of the people.

21 B. The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

22 1. Six members to be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma  
23 House of Representatives as follows:

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1 a. at least three members appointed by the Speaker shall  
2 be current members of the Oklahoma House of  
3 Representatives upon appointment, and one of these  
4 members shall be a member of the House Elections and  
5 Redistricting Subcommittee; and

6 b. at least one member appointed by the Speaker shall  
7 have experience working with or assisting individuals  
8 or organizations who have circulated or are  
9 circulating petitions in Oklahoma to submit a question  
10 to the vote of the people, such person may or may not  
11 be a resident of the State of Oklahoma; and

12 2. Six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
13 State Senate as follows:

14 a. at least three members appointed by the President Pro  
15 Tempore shall be current members of the State Senate  
16 upon appointment, and one of these members shall be a  
17 member of the Senate committee that considers bills  
18 relating to the petition process, and

19 b. at least one member appointed by the President Pro  
20 Tempore shall have experience working with or  
21 assisting individuals or organizations who have  
22 circulated or are circulating petitions in Oklahoma to  
23 submit a question to the vote of the people, such  
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1 person may or may not be a resident of the State of  
2 Oklahoma.

3 C. The Task Force shall also include the following as nonvoting  
4 advisory members:

- 5 1. The Governor or a designee;
- 6 2. The Secretary of State or a designee;
- 7 3. The Attorney General of Oklahoma or a designee;
- 8 4. The Secretary of the State Election Board or a designee; and
- 9 5. The Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court or a  
10 designee.

11 D. Members of the Task Force shall be appointed no later than  
12 September 1, 2008. The chair and vice-chair of the Task Force shall  
13 be elected by the voting members of the Task Force at the first  
14 meeting of the Task Force. Meetings shall be held at the call of  
15 the chair.

16 E. A simple majority of the voting members of the Task Force  
17 shall be required for a quorum. A quorum of the Task Force shall be  
18 required in order to take any official action including the adoption  
19 of a final report.

20 F. The Task Force shall be authorized to meet as often as may  
21 be required in order to perform the duties imposed upon it.

22 G. The Task Force shall provide notice of its meetings in a  
23 manner reasonably calculated to provide notice to interested  
24 persons. Meeting notices may be posted electronically to the web

1 site of the Oklahoma House of Representatives or the State Senate,  
2 or both, in order to meet the requirements of this subsection.

3 H. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation but  
4 shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

5 1. Legislative members shall be reimbursed for their necessary  
6 travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in  
7 accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;  
8 and

9 2. Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed by their  
10 respective agencies or appointing authority for their necessary  
11 travel expenses in the performance of their duties in accordance  
12 with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

13 I. Staffing for the Task Force shall be performed by the staff  
14 of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the staff of the  
15 Oklahoma State Senate with assistance provided by staffing support  
16 from the Secretary of State's office.

17 J. The Task Force shall hear informal testimony or  
18 presentations from persons or organizations who have successfully or  
19 unsuccessfully achieved a referendum or initiative on the ballot;  
20 from the state agencies and authorities involved in the petition  
21 process, including but not limited to the Secretary of State's  
22 office, the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General, and the State  
23 Election Board; and others as necessary.

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1 K. The Task Force shall study the following issues and make a  
2 report of its findings and any recommendations to the Governor, the  
3 Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President  
4 Pro Tempore of the State Senate by December 31, 2009:

5 1. Study the current referendum and initiative petition process  
6 and various problems that have occurred with the petition process in  
7 Oklahoma;

8 2. Study other approaches of the petition process for signature  
9 gathering;

10 3. Make recommendations on changes to the referendum and  
11 initiative petition process to ensure the right of citizens to  
12 engage in the orderly circulation of petitions shall be protected  
13 and not infringed; and

14 4. Study, address and make recommendations on any other issues  
15 relating to the petition process in Oklahoma that may arise during  
16 the course of the Task Force's study.

17 L. The provisions of this section shall cease to have the force  
18 and effect of law on January 1, 2010.

19 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
20 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 13th day of March, 2008.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives  
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6 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate  
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