

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 6, 2008

Committee Substitute for
House Bill No. 3143

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 3143 - By: CARGILL of the House.

An Act relating to poor persons; creating the Compassionate Care Task Force; providing for membership; providing for appointment of chair and vice-chair; providing for travel reimbursement; directing State Department of Health to provide staff; directing meetings be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; stating duties of Task Force; requiring submission of written progress report to certain persons; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
2 Statutes as Section 3121 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering,
3 reads as follows:

4 A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2010, the “Compassionate Care Task
5 Force”. The Compassionate Care Task Force shall be composed of the following
6 members:

- 7 1. The Attorney General, or a designee;
- 8 2. The Commissioner of the State Department of Health, or a designee;
- 9 3. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or a designee;

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

3 5. The Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, as created
4 under the direction of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in July 2000, or a
5 designee;

6 6. Two bipartisan members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives appointed
7 by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives; and

8 7. Two bipartisan members of the Oklahoma State Senate appointed by the
9 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate.

10 B. 1. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. A
11 vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

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

14 3. The chair shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of
15 Representatives on or before August 1, 2008. The vice-chair shall be appointed by the
16 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate on or before August 1, 2008.

17 4. The chair shall convene the first meeting of the Task Force on or before
18 September 1, 2008. The Task Force shall meet as often as necessary.

19 5. Task Force members employed by the state shall be reimbursed for travel
20 expenses related to their service on the Task Force by their respective agencies pursuant
21 to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the
22 Task Force shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the

1 performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
2 Statutes.

3 C. Staff of the State Department of Health shall serve as primary staff for the Task
4 Force. The Task Force may use the expertise and services of the staffs of the Oklahoma
5 House of Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate and may, if necessary, seek
6 the advice and services of experts in the field as well as other necessary professional and
7 clerical staff.

8 D. All departments, officers, agencies and employees of this state shall cooperate
9 with the Task Force in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities including, but not limited
10 to, providing any information, records, or reports requested by the Task Force.

11 E. The meetings of the Task Force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting
12 Act.

13 F. The Compassionate Care Task Force shall determine and make
14 recommendations regarding:

15 1. The role of charitable, voluntary, and faith-based organizations in the Oklahoma
16 health care system;

17 2. The role of charitable, voluntary, and faith-based organizations in community-
18 based health education, advocacy and direct care for the uninsured;

19 3. The role of charitable, voluntary, and faith-based organizations in improving
20 access to health care and ensuring affordable and stable health care coverage;

21 4. The level of collaboration between charitable, voluntary, and faith-based
22 organizations and public health agencies in the state;

1 5. The utilization of health-related services currently being provided by charitable,
2 voluntary, and faith-based organizations in the state; and

3 6. The role of charitable, voluntary, and faith-based organizations and the
4 pandemic influenza preparedness plan for Oklahoma.

5 G. The Compassionate Care Task Force shall provide a written progress report to
6 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Speaker
7 of the Oklahoma House of Representatives on or before March 1 of each year.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

9 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
10 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof
11 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, dated 03-05-08 - DO
13 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.