

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Committee Substitute for  
ENGROSSED  
Senate Bill No. 1959

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1959 - By:  
JOHNSON (CONSTANCE) of the Senate and KERN AND PITTMAN of the House.

( Corrections - task force - noncodification - effective date -  
emergency )

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

- 1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the  
2 Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:
- 3 A. There is hereby created until November 30, 2010, a task force to study the roles  
4 and responsibilities of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services,  
5 the State Department of Rehabilitation Services, and the Department of Corrections on  
6 behalf of women who are mentally ill and have been incarcerated with regard to:
- 7 1. Treatment;
  - 8 2. Rehabilitative services;
  - 9 3. Support services during the reentry process for women who are mentally ill and  
10 have been incarcerated;
  - 11 4. Employment;

- 1           5. Education; and
- 2           6. Other services that ensure successful reintegration into society and that reduce
- 3 the likelihood of recidivism.

4           B. 1. In addition, the task force shall study the pre- and post-incarceration quality

5 of life for such women including, but not limited to, the ability to:

- 6           a.     access child care,
- 7           b.     meet family responsibilities,
- 8           c.     obtain and maintain employment,
- 9           d.     meet financial responsibilities,
- 10          e.     obtain and maintain treatment or medicines, and
- 11          f.     become incarcerated or recidivate based on inability to access such
- 12 interventions.

- 13          2. The task force shall also review agency policies and procedures related to:
- 14          a.     methods for gaining trust and truth, and understanding the unique
- 15 relationship needs of women who are mentally ill and have been
- 16 incarcerated,
- 17          b.     understanding historical motivators that lead to incarceration of
- 18 women who are mentally ill including, but not limited to, domestic
- 19 abuse, childhood abuse, sexual molestation, sexual abuse, and
- 20 dysfunctional family systems,
- 21          c.     integrity of support systems,
- 22          d.     individualized assessments,

- 1 e. discharge procedures, and
- 2 f. educating work sites about the special needs of women who are
- 3 mentally ill and have been incarcerated.

4 C. In pursuing the goals for such women, the organization and procedures of the  
5 task force shall focus on:

- 6 1. Increased efficiency, including review and incorporation of the findings of
- 7 existing female offender initiatives;
- 8 2. Measurable results;
- 9 3. Reduced costs;
- 10 4. Effective evaluations; and
- 11 5. Improved utilization of state resources.

12 D. The participating agencies shall provide staff assistance in administering the  
13 responsibilities of the task force. The Department of Mental Health and Substance  
14 Abuse Services and the Department of Corrections shall serve as co-lead agencies in  
15 implementing and conducting the task force study. The Senate and House staffs shall  
16 also provide staff assistance for meetings, logistics, and reports.

17 E. The task force shall be composed of nineteen (19) members as follows:

- 18 1. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- 19 Services, or designee;
- 20 2. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or designee;
- 21 3. The Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services, or designee;

- 1           4. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or the Director of Child  
2 Welfare as designee;
- 3           5. The Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, or designee;
- 4           6. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, or designee;
- 5           7. The Director of the District Attorneys Council, or designee;
- 6           8. Four members of the Legislature who shall be appointed as follows:
- 7               a.     two members representing the Senate, one member appointed by the  
8                     President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one member appointed by  
9                     the Co-President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and
- 10              b.     two members representing the two parties of the House of  
11                     Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
12                     Representatives;
- 13           9. Two members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a  
14 list of names compiled by the Department of Corrections of women who volunteer to be  
15 considered for the task force and who have a mental illness and have been incarcerated;
- 16           10. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. One  
17 member shall be a representative of Workforce Oklahoma, and one member shall be a  
18 mental health service provider with doctorate level professional experience in the areas  
19 of child sexual molestation and abuse and other sexually explicit activities; and
- 20           11. Four members to be appointed by the Governor as follows:

1 a. two members who each represent a consumer advocacy agency that  
2 represents individuals who are affected by mental illness and/or their  
3 family members, and

4 b. two members who shall each represent a community-based  
5 constituency advocacy entity that represents both individuals who are  
6 or have been incarcerated or their family members.

7 F. Ex officio members may be appointed by the chair consisting of representatives  
8 from existing female offender initiatives or programs including, but not limited to:

- 9 1. Study of Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children as created by Senate Joint  
10 Resolution No. 48 of the 2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004);  
11 2. County Community Corrections Programs;  
12 3. Community Sentencing Program;  
13 4. Oklahoma Access to Recovery;  
14 5. Family Justice Project; and  
15 6. Children of Promise Mentors of Hope.

16 G. The nonlegislative members of the task force shall receive travel reimbursement  
17 pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act, and the Legislative members shall  
18 receive reimbursement by the appointing authority.

19 H. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint the chair and the  
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the vice-chair. The chair and vice-  
21 chair shall jointly convene the first meeting of the task force on or before August 1, 2008.

22 The membership may appoint from among the members other officers deemed necessary

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.  
**BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED** language denotes Committee Amendments.  
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

1 for the work of the task force. The chair may form committees and subcommittees as  
2 deemed appropriate. All appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the  
3 appointing authority. All members shall be voting members, except ex officio members.

4 I. At the conclusion of the study, the task force shall prepare a final report to be  
5 distributed to the Governor, the Co-Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of  
6 the House of Representatives, the Director of the Department of Corrections, the  
7 Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and  
8 the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

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

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

14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, dated 04-08-08 - DO  
15 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.