

3 Senate Bill No. 499

4 SENATE BILL NO. 499 - By: RICE of the Senate and STEELE of the
5 House.

6 An Act relating to poor persons; creating the Oklahoma Task
7 Force on Hunger; providing duties; setting membership;
8 permitting certain task force to meet as needed; authorizing
9 travel reimbursement in certain circumstances; directing
10 certain staff support; requiring certain report; providing
11 for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring
12 an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 245 of Title 56, unless there is
16 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. There is hereby created until December 31, 2007, the
18 Oklahoma Task Force on Hunger. The task force shall consider, but
19 not be limited to, making recommendations about the following:

20 1. Strategies for coordinating services among federal, state,
21 faith-based and nonprofit organizations;

22 2. Strategies for extending existing programs and outreach
23 efforts to serve more people;

24 3. Strategies to involve schools to identify and improve
25 students' access to sufficient and nutritious food;

26 4. Strategies to connect eligible hungry people with existing
27 programs;

- 1 5. Recommendations for provider accountability;
- 2 6. Recommendations for funding sources to implement the
- 3 recommendations; and
- 4 7. Recommendations for legislation to implement the findings of
- 5 the task force.
- 6 B. The task force shall be composed of fifteen (15) members as
- 7 follows:
- 8 1. The Secretary of Health or a designee;
- 9 2. The Director of the Department of Human Services or a
- 10 designee;
- 11 3. The Commissioner of Health or a designee;
- 12 4. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- 13 Services or designee;
- 14 5. The Director of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority or a
- 15 designee;
- 16 6. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a
- 17 designee;
- 18 7. One member appointed by the Governor from a list submitted
- 19 by a nonprofit regional food bank organization representing central
- 20 and western Oklahoma;
- 21 8. One member appointed by the Governor from a list submitted
- 22 by a nonprofit regional food bank organization representing eastern
- 23 Oklahoma;

1 9. One member appointed by the Governor from a list submitted
2 by a statewide organization of child advocates;

3 10. Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
4 Senate representing faith-based organizations involved in hunger
5 programs;

6 11. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore from a
7 list submitted by a comprehensive antipoverty agency whose mission
8 is to help families in need achieve self-sufficiency;

9 12. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives from a list submitted by a statewide organization
11 representing senior citizens;

12 13. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives from a list submitted by a nonprofit educational
14 organization that assists in developing sustainable food and farming
15 systems; and

16 14. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives from a list submitted by a nonprofit organization
18 committed to effective solutions and key policies which affect
19 hunger and poverty.

20 C. The members of the task force shall select a chair and vice-
21 chair from among its membership. A quorum of the task force shall
22 be required in order for any final action of the task force.

1 D. The task force may meet as often as may be required in order
2 to perform the duties imposed upon it.

3 E. The meetings of the task force shall be subject to the
4 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

5 F. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for
6 their services, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary
7 travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their
8 respective agency pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel
9 Reimbursement Act. Members appointed by the Governor, the President
10 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives shall be reimbursed by the Department of Human
12 Services pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel
13 Reimbursement Act.

14 G. Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
15 Department of Human Services.

16 H. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and
17 recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
18 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate by
19 December 31, 2007.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2007.

21 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES, dated
4 2-8-07 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.