

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 HOUSE BILL 2866

By: Shelton

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to children; creating the Legislative
8 Review of the Department of Human Services Task
9 Force; providing for membership; providing for
10 appointment of cochairs; directing travel
11 reimbursement; providing for administrative support;
12 specifying duties; requiring certain reports;
13 providing for noncodification; providing an effective
14 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

17 A. There is hereby created, to continue until December 31,
18 2009, the "Legislative Review of the Department of Human Services
19 Task Force".

20 B. The Task Force shall consist of fourteen (14) members:

21 1. Four members shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

- 22 a. one member shall be a presiding judge of a court
23 having jurisdiction over deprived, neglected, and
24 abused children from a rural county,

1 b. one member shall be a presiding judge of a court
2 having jurisdiction over deprived, neglected, and
3 abused children from an urban county,

4 c. one member shall be a district attorney from a rural
5 county, and

6 d. one member shall be a district attorney from an urban
7 county;

8 2. Four members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
9 Oklahoma House of Representatives as follows:

10 a. one member shall be a court-appointed special
11 advocate,

12 b. one member shall be a former employee of the
13 Department of Human Services, and

14 c. two members shall be from the Oklahoma House of
15 Representatives;

16 3. Four members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
17 of the Senate as follows:

18 a. one member shall be a former employee of the
19 Department of Human Services,

20 b. one member shall be from Oklahoma Lawyers for
21 Children, and

22 c. two members shall be from the Senate;

23 4. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or a
24 designee; and

1 5. The Director of Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth,
2 or a designee.

3 C. One appointed member from the Oklahoma House of
4 Representatives and one appointed member from the State Senate shall
5 serve as cochairs of the Task Force. The appointed members from the
6 Oklahoma House of Representatives and State Senate shall choose the
7 cochairs by agreement. The cochairs shall convene the first meeting
8 of the Task Force. The members of the Task Force shall elect any
9 other officers during the first meeting. A vacancy in the Task
10 Force shall be filled by the original appointing authority. The
11 Task Force shall meet as often as necessary.

12 D. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by September 1,
13 2008.

14 E. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute
15 a quorum. A majority of the members present at a meeting may act
16 for the Task Force.

17 F. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed
18 by their respective agencies for necessary travel expenses incurred
19 in the performance of duties pursuant to the provisions of the State
20 Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the Task Force
21 shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the
22 performance of duties in accordance with the provisions of Section
23 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

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1 G. Administrative support for the Task Force including, but not
2 limited to, personnel necessary to ensure the proper performance of
3 the duties and responsibilities of the Task Force shall be provided
4 by the staff of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the
5 Senate.

6 H. The Task Force shall study and make recommendations
7 regarding:

8 1. Improving efficiency in the management and structure of the
9 Department;

10 2. Establishing a cohesive agency and eliminating barriers in
11 communications;

12 3. Reducing employee turnover;

13 4. Determining optimal training programs;

14 5. Improving outcomes for individuals and families served by
15 the agency;

16 6. Examining the consistency of implementing agency policy and
17 procedures across the state;

18 7. Options for restructuring the agency; and

19 8. Considerations regarding the dismantling of the Department
20 and creating in lieu thereof separate agencies for children and
21 family support services, aging services, and developmentally
22 disabled services.

23 I. The Task Force shall publish an initial report of findings
24 and recommendations by December 31, 2008, and a final report by

1 December 31, 2009, including recommendations for any resulting
2 legislation.

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

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

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