

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 3143

By: Jordan

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

1. The Attorney General, or a designee;
2. The Commissioner of the State Department of Health, or a  
designee;

1           3. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or a  
2 designee;

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

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

8           6. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives  
9 appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;  
10 and

11           7. Two members of the Oklahoma State Senate appointed by the  
12 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate.

13           B. 1. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing  
14 authorities. A vacancy on the Task Force shall filled by the  
15 original appointing authority.

16           2. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute  
17 a quorum. A majority of the members present at a meeting may act  
18 for the Task Force.

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

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

4       5. Task Force members employed by the state shall be reimbursed  
5 for travel expenses related to their service on the Task Force by  
6 their respective agencies pursuant to the provisions of the State  
7 Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the Task Force  
8 shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in  
9 the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of  
10 Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11       C. Staff of the State Department of Health shall serve as  
12 primary staff for the Task Force. The Task Force may use the  
13 expertise and services of the staffs of the Oklahoma House of  
14 Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate and may, if necessary,  
15 seek the advice and services of experts in the field as well as  
16 other necessary professional and clerical staff.

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

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

23       F. The Compassionate Care Task Force shall determine and make  
24 recommendations regarding:

- 1           1. The role of faith-based organizations in the Oklahoma health  
2 care system;
- 3           2. The role of faith-based organizations in community-based  
4 health education, advocacy and direct care for the uninsured;
- 5           3. The role of faith-based organizations in improving access to  
6 health care and ensuring affordable and stable health care coverage;
- 7           4. The level of collaboration between faith-based organizations  
8 and public health agencies in the state;
- 9           5. The utilization of health-related services currently being  
10 provided by faith-based organizations in the state; and
- 11           6. The role of faith-based organizations and the pandemic  
12 influenza preparedness plan for Oklahoma.

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

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

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

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23           51-2-9400           GRS           01/17/08

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