

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2971

By: Thomsen

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to higher education; creating the
9 Higher Education Branch Campus Study Task Force;
10 directing the Task Force to study certain issues and
11 make recommendations; specifying certain issues;
12 establishing membership; providing for cochairs,
13 meetings, service, quorum, vacancies and staff
14 support; directing state agencies to provide support
15 and information; allowing for travel reimbursement;
16 allowing the Task Force to seek certain assistance
17 for certain purpose; requiring the Task Force to
18 submit certain report; providing for noncodification;
19 and declaring an emergency.

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

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

28 A. There is hereby created until October 31, 2012, the Higher
29 Education Branch Campus Study Task Force.

30 B. The Task Force shall study and evaluate access to higher
31 education resources in the southeastern region of the state and
32 shall make recommendations on the potential for creating branch or

1 dual branch campuses of higher education in Ardmore and other
2 locations in the southeastern region of the state. The Task Force
3 shall study, review and make recommendations on the following:

4 1. The existing higher education resources available in the
5 southeastern region of the state, including the service map, the
6 geographical distribution of campuses and the enrollment of each
7 campus;

8 2. The economic condition of the Ardmore Higher Education
9 Program, East Central University, Southeastern Oklahoma State
10 University and Murray State College and the existing branch campuses
11 of higher education institutions located in the southeastern region
12 of the state;

13 3. The potential for the expansion or redistribution of higher
14 education resources in Ardmore and other potential locations in the
15 southeastern region of the state;

16 4. The potential community interest, investment and commitment
17 from Ardmore and other potential communities; and

18 5. Any other relevant issues that help effectively analyze and
19 evaluate potential investment and redistribution of higher education
20 resources in Ardmore and other locations in the southeastern region
21 of the state.

22 C. The Task Force shall consist of sixteen (16) members as
23 follows:

24 1. The Governor or designee;

- 1 2. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
2 Education or designee;
- 3 3. A member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
4 appointed by the chair of the State Regents;
- 5 4. A member of the Board of the Regional University System of
6 Oklahoma, appointed by the chair of the System;
- 7 5. A member of the Board of Trustees of the Ardmore Higher
8 Education Program, appointed by the chair of the Board;
- 9 6. The President of East Central University or designee;
- 10 7. The President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University or
11 designee;
- 12 8. The President of Murray State College or designee;
- 13 9. Two members, one who represents the Choctaw Nation of
14 Oklahoma selected by the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and
15 one who represents the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma selected by the
16 Governor of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma;
- 17 10. Two members who live in and represent the City of Ardmore
18 and the surrounding area;
- 19 11. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by
20 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- 21 12. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro
22 Tempore of the Senate.
- 23 D. One of the appointed House of Representatives members, as
24 selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of

1 the appointed Senate members, as selected by the President Pro
2 Tempore of the Senate, shall serve as cochairs of the Task Force.
3 Appointments to the Task Force shall be made within thirty (30) days
4 after the effective date of this act. Meetings of the Task Force
5 shall be held at the call of either cochair of the Task Force.
6 Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities.
7 A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a
8 quorum to transact business, but no vacancy shall impair the right
9 of the remaining members to exercise all of the powers of the Task
10 Force. A vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by the original
11 appointing authority. Staff support for the Task Force shall be
12 provided by the staff of the House of Representatives, Senate and
13 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Other state agencies
14 shall provide support and information as requested by the Task
15 Force.

16 E. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for
17 serving on the Task Force, but may receive travel reimbursement,
18 contingent on the availability of funds for this purpose.

19 F. The Task Force may seek the assistance of the Legislative
20 Service Bureau or the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to
21 contract with an independent consultant as necessary to fulfill the
22 duties specified in this section contingent on the availability of
23 funds.

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1 G. The Task Force shall submit a final report by October 31,
2 2012, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and
3 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

4 SECTION 2. 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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