

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1564

By: Paddack of the Senate

3 and

4 Denney of the House
5

6 An Act relating to schools; creating the Middle
7 School Education Task Force until certain date;
8 recognizing importance of middle school education;
9 directing task force to examine certain areas to
10 improve middle school education; providing for
11 membership of the task force; providing for selection
12 of task force officers; requiring a quorum to take
13 certain action; allowing for task force to meet as
14 necessary; providing task force be subject to
15 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; providing for travel
16 reimbursement; providing for staffing; providing an
17 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

21 A. There is hereby created until June 30, 2013, the Middle
22 School Education Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be
23 to examine ways that middle school education can be reformed to
24 prepare middle school students for success in high school, college
and future careers. The task force shall:

1. Examine ways to develop individualized instruction for each
student and to identify at-risk learners to ensure that all students
succeed;

1 2. Examine ways for school districts to incorporate an emphasis
2 on preparing for college, career and citizenship into the middle
3 school curriculum;

4 3. Examine professional development programs for teachers in
5 middle school;

6 4. Examine ways to enhance reading instruction with a focus on
7 reading in content areas;

8 5. Focus on ways to emphasize the importance of mathematics and
9 science education in middle school;

10 6. Compare testing methodology in middle school to the methods
11 of testing in high school; and

12 7. Identify barriers to performance in middle school including,
13 but not limited to, attendance.

14 B. The task force shall be composed of eleven (11) members as
15 follows:

16 1. Three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
17 Senate as follows:

18 a. a full-time teacher who teaches in middle school,

19 b. a high school principal, and

20 c. a representative of a statewide organization that
21 represents school boards;

22 2. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives as follows:

24 a. a middle school principal,

- b. a licensed counselor employed at a middle school, and
- c. a representative of a statewide association representing middle level education;

3. Three members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- a. a superintendent of a public school district,
- b. a representative of a statewide association representing school principals, and
- c. a principal recognized as a Middle School Principal of the Year by a statewide association representing principals;

4. One member of the Senate appointed by the Chair of the Senate Education Committee; and

5. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Chair of the House Common Education Committee.

C. The chair and vice-chair of the task force shall be selected by the task force from among the members.

D. A quorum of the task force shall be required in order for any final action of the task force.

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

F. The meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

G. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their service, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1 1. State employees who are members of the task force shall be
2 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
3 duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State
4 Travel Reimbursement Act;

5 2. All other task force members shall be reimbursed by the
6 appointing authority for travel expenses incurred in the performance
7 of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement
8 Act; and

9 3. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with
10 Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 H. Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
12 State Department of Education.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

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

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