

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 HOUSE BILL 1497

By: Shelton

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; creating the  
8 Higher Education Employee Merit System Task Force;  
9 providing termination date; stating purpose of the  
10 Task Force; providing for membership; providing date  
11 for appointments and organizational meeting;  
12 providing for selection of officers; stating duties;  
13 exempting the Task Force from certain acts; providing  
14 for meetings; providing for travel reimbursement and  
15 staff assistance; requiring completion of the study  
16 by a certain date; providing for noncodification; and  
17 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 December 31, 2011, the "Higher  
22 Education Employee Merit System Task Force". The purpose of the  
23 Task Force shall be to study the establishment of a merit system for  
24 employees of institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
Education and how a merit system would promote equity and  
accountability in higher education.

B. The Task Force shall consist of five (5) members as follows:

1           1. One member appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of  
2 Representatives from the membership of the House;

3           2. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
4 Oklahoma State Senate from the membership of the Senate;

5           3. The Secretary of Human Resources and Administration, or a  
6 designee;

7           4. One member who represents The Oklahoma State System of  
8 Higher Education with knowledge of labor and employment law,  
9 appointed by the Chancellor of Higher Education; and

10          5. One member appointed by the Governor who represents the  
11 largest organization in the state that represents state employees.

12          C. Appointment to the Task Force shall be made by August 1,  
13 2011. The members of the Task Force shall select a chair and vice  
14 chair at the first meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force shall  
15 conduct an organizational meeting not later than August 31, 2011.

16          D. The Task Force shall investigate and make recommendations  
17 regarding:

18           1. A process for hiring and terminating higher education  
19 faculty positions at institutions within The Oklahoma State System  
20 of Higher Education;

21           2. A system of classification and compensation of nonfaculty  
22 positions at institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
23 Education; and

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1           3. A proposal to implement a merit system for nonfaculty  
2 employees at institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
3 Education.

4           E. The Task Force shall not be subject to the Oklahoma Open  
5 Meeting Act or to the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

6           F. The Task Force shall be authorized to meet at such times as  
7 may be required in order to fulfill the duties imposed upon the Task  
8 Force by law. Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for  
9 their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
10 duties as follows:

11           1. State employees who are members shall be reimbursed for  
12 travel expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement  
13 Act;

14           2. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with  
15 Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

16           3. All other members shall be reimbursed by the Office of  
17 Personnel Management in accordance with the State Travel  
18 Reimbursement Act.

19           G. Staff assistance for the Task Force shall be provided by the  
20 Office of Personnel Management.

21           H. The Task Force shall complete its study not later than  
22 December 31, 2011.

23           SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
24 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.

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