

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3169

6 By: Blackwell

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to courts; creating the Oklahoma
9 Court System Task Force; providing termination date;
10 stating purpose of the Task Force; providing for
11 membership; establishing appointment deadline;
12 directing how vacancies should be filled; requiring
13 organizational meeting; providing for selection of
14 officers; specifying meeting frequency; stating
15 duties; requiring compliance with certain acts;
16 prohibiting travel reimbursement; providing staff
17 assistance; requiring submission of Task Force report
18 by a certain date; providing for codification; and
19 providing an effective date.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 201 of Title 20, unless there is
23 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. There is hereby created until January 1, 2016, the "Oklahoma
Court System Task Force". The purpose of the Task Force shall be to
study the state court system and rewrite the laws in order to
simplify and organize the courts in a more streamlined fashion.

1 B. The Task Force shall consist of fourteen (14) members as
2 follows:

3 1. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or designee;

4 2. The Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, or
5 designee;

6 3. The Attorney General, or designee;

7 4. The Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation,
8 or designee;

9 5. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or designee;

10 6. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee;

11 7. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee;

12 8. Two members from the District Attorneys Council, one each
13 appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
14 and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate;

15 9. One member who is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association
16 and practices primarily criminal defense law, appointed by the
17 Governor;

18 10. A district court judge, appointed by the Chief Justice of
19 the Supreme Court; and

20 11. An attorney employed by the Oklahoma Indigent Defense
21 System, appointed by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indigent
22 Defense System.

23 C. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by December 1,
24 2014. Members of the Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of the

1 appointing authority. Vacancies in a position shall be filled in
2 the same manner as the original appointment.

3 D. The Task Force shall conduct an organizational meeting not
4 later than December 31, 2014. The Task Force shall elect a chair
5 and cochair at the organizational meeting. The Task Force shall
6 meet at least once monthly.

7 E. The Task Force shall research and make recommendations
8 regarding:

- 9 1. The problems of the current state court system;
- 10 2. How to rewrite the statutes to ensure the state court system
11 operates more efficiently; and
- 12 3. Any other relevant issues related to the state court system.

13 F. The Task Force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting
14 Act or the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

15 G. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation
16 and shall not be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred
17 in the performance of their duties.

18 H. Staff assistance for the Task Force shall be provided by the
19 staffs of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma
20 State Senate.

21 I. The Task Force shall submit to the Governor, the President
22 Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Speaker of the
23 Oklahoma House of Representatives a report no later than December
24

1 31, 2015, that rewrites the statutes to streamline the state court
2 system and ensure efficiency.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2014.
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