

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

4 HOUSE BILL 3470

 By: Nelson

7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to children; creating the Foster
9 Children Education Enhancement Task Force; providing
10 termination date; stating purpose of the Task Force;
11 providing for membership; establishing appointment
12 deadline; directing how vacancies should be filled;
13 requiring organizational meeting; providing for
14 selection of officers; specifying meeting frequency;
15 stating duties; requiring compliance with certain
16 acts; prohibiting travel reimbursement; providing
17 staff assistance; permitting use of public and
18 private resources; requiring submission of Task Force
19 report by a certain date; providing for
20 noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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

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

24 A. There is hereby created until December 31, 2015, the "Foster
25 Children Education Enhancement Task Force". The purpose of the Task
26 Force shall be to study the educational challenges facing children
27 in the custody and care of the Department of Human Services.

1 B. The Task Force shall consist of eleven (11) members as
2 follows:

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

5 2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee;

6 3. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and
7 Technology Education, or designee;

8 4. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
9 Education, or designee;

10 5. Two members of the House Human Services Committee or House
11 Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services, appointed by the
12 Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;

13 6. Two members of the Senate Health and Human Services
14 Committee or Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human
15 Services, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma
16 State Senate;

17 7. One member who is a current foster parent of school-age
18 children, appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of
19 Representatives;

20 8. One member who works for the Department of Human Services as
21 a child welfare specialist or supervisor, appointed by the President
22 Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate; and

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1 9. One member who is a former foster child who is currently
2 enrolled in or a recent graduate of a post-high school education
3 program, appointed by the Governor.

4 C. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by November 1,
5 2014. Members of the Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of the
6 appointing authority. Vacancies in a position shall be filled in
7 the same manner as the original appointment.

8 D. The Task Force shall conduct an organizational meeting not
9 later than November 31, 2014. The Task Force shall elect a chair
10 and cochair at the organizational meeting. The Task Force shall
11 meet at least once monthly.

12 E. The Task Force shall investigate and make recommendations
13 regarding:

14 1. How to ensure children in the custody of the Department of
15 Human Services are receiving the necessary educational services in
16 preparation for active citizenship and postsecondary education or
17 entry into the workforce;

18 2. Solutions to avoid loss of educational credits due to
19 changes in placement;

20 3. How to develop alternative education plans for children in
21 the custody of the Department, including, but not limited to, online
22 programs, the General Educational Development (GED) credential,
23 career and technology education training, higher education and other
24 education programs; and

1 4. Any other educational issues or challenges associated with
2 children in the custody of the Department.

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

5 G. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation,
6 and shall not be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred
7 in the performance of their duties.

8 H. Staff assistance for the Task Force shall be provided by the
9 Department of Human Services.

10 I. The Task Force may make use of any resources, both public
11 and private, that will provide information and analysis that assists
12 in executing its statutory mission.

13 J. The Task Force shall submit to the Governor, the President
14 Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and the Speaker of the
15 Oklahoma House of Representatives a report no later than December
16 31, 2015, that identifies the educational challenges facing children
17 in the custody of the Department of Human Services and recommends
18 how children in the custody of the Department throughout the state
19 can be better served to ensure they have the educational tools
20 necessary for adulthood.

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

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23 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 02/19/2014 - DO PASS.
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