

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 HOUSE BILL 2287

By: Pittman

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to mental health courts; creating the  
8 Mental Health Court Expansion Task Force; providing  
9 for membership; directing how vacancies should be  
10 filled; requiring final written report; specifying  
11 date of report; providing for termination of Task  
12 Force; requiring organizational meeting; providing  
13 for selection of chair and cochair; specifying  
14 meeting frequency; providing for staff assistance;  
15 prohibiting travel reimbursement; permitting use of  
16 public and private resources; providing for  
17 codification; providing an effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 473 of Title 22, unless there is  
21 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. There is hereby created the Mental Health Court Expansion  
23 Task Force to recommend to the Legislature and other policymakers  
24 measures that would expand the existing mental health court system  
in the state which allows courts to take a modified approach when  
dealing with defendants who suffer from a mental illness or  
developmental disability.

1 B. The Task Force shall be composed of thirteen (13) members as  
2 follows:

3 1. The Attorney General, or designee;

4 2. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and  
5 Substance Abuse Services, or designee;

6 3. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or  
7 designee;

8 4. The State Commissioner of Health, or designee;

9 5. The Executive Director of the District Attorneys Council, or  
10 designee;

11 6. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or designee;

12 7. The Director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and  
13 Dangerous Drugs Control, or designee;

14 8. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or  
15 designee;

16 9. A district court judge with experience in the mental health  
17 court system to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
18 Oklahoma State Senate;

19 10. A district court judge with experience in criminal  
20 proceedings to be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of  
21 Representatives;

22 11. A member of a mental health court team to be appointed by  
23 the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate;

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1 12. A member of a mental health court team to be appointed by  
2 the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives; and

3 13. A representative of the Governor's office to be appointed  
4 by the Governor.

5 C. 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 submit to the Governor, the President  
9 Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and the Speaker of the  
10 Oklahoma House of Representatives a report no later than January 1,  
11 2015, that identifies the keys to a successful mental health court  
12 system and recommends how it can be expanded to serve more  
13 individuals throughout the state. The Task Force shall terminate by  
14 operation of law on February 1, 2015.

15 E. The report by the Task Force shall reflect the goals,  
16 outcomes, and recommendations of the Task Force.

17 F. The Task Force shall hold an organizational meeting not  
18 later than December 15, 2013. The Task Force shall elect a chair  
19 and cochair at the first meeting. The Task Force shall meet at  
20 least once monthly.

21 G. Staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the  
22 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

1 H. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation,  
2 and shall not be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred  
3 in the performance of their duties.

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

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2013.

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