

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2549

By: Nelson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 1,
8 Chapter 310, O.S.L. 2013, which relates to the
9 Rethinking Special Education, Competency and
10 Transition Task Force; extending termination date of
11 the Task Force; extending final report filing date;
12 and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 310, O.S.L.
15 2013, is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 2. A. There is hereby created until May 31, ~~2014~~ 2015,
17 the Rethinking Special Education, Competency and Transition Task
18 Force.

19 B. The Task Force shall study and develop a plan to provide for
20 the delivery of special education and related services to students
21 with disabilities for whom an individualized education program (IEP)
22 has been developed in accordance with the Individuals with
23 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Task Force shall study,
24 review and make recommendations on the following, with a focus on

1 improved educational services and outcomes and meaningful
2 postsecondary transition plans:

3 1. What is the appropriate governance and organizational
4 structure for statewide special education services;

5 2. What resources are needed and available to support statewide
6 special education services;

7 3. How special education services can be enhanced through
8 improved economies of scale and collaboration models;

9 4. How students are enrolled in and provided services through
10 special education;

11 5. How teachers and other related services are provided through
12 special education services;

13 6. How equipment, resources and other support services benefit
14 students with an IEP;

15 7. How partnerships with school districts, technology center
16 school districts, higher education institutions, and any other
17 public or private entities benefit students with an IEP;

18 8. What are the relevant federal IDEA compliance issues;

19 9. How assessments for placing students on an IEP can be
20 improved;

21 10. What are the most salient issues reported when a parent
22 files a special education complaint or due process procedure;

23 11. How the teacher preparation system prepares regular
24 education and special education teachers to accommodate students

1 with learning differences and the continuum of services used to meet
2 the needs of a student;

3 12. What safeguards are in place to assure annual progress for
4 students in special education considering the waiver Oklahoma
5 received from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA);

6 13. What procedures and policies are in place regarding
7 referral and evaluation for special education services;

8 14. What procedures and policies are in place regarding
9 postsecondary transition planning for students in special education;

10 15. What procedures and policies are in place regarding
11 referral and evaluation for assistive technology;

12 16. What models of equipment exchange and cooperative councils
13 are already in effect and are being successfully implemented in
14 schools;

15 17. What issues and barriers exist for students on IEPs who
16 graduate and wish to attend postsecondary education classes;

17 18. What are the options for restructuring special education
18 and creating a statewide special education entity, what models do
19 other states use and what would work best in Oklahoma;

20 19. How would a new special education entity improve special
21 education services and student outcomes and how this improvement
22 will be measured and monitored; and

23 20. Any other relevant issues.

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1 C. The Task Force shall consist of twenty-four (24) members as
2 follows:

3 1. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or the
4 Assistant State Superintendent of Special Education Instruction as
5 designated by the State Superintendent;

6 2. The Secretary of Education or designee;

7 3. The Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services or
8 the State Transition Coordinator for the Department of
9 Rehabilitation Services as designated by the Director;

10 4. A superintendent of an urban public school district,
11 appointed by the Governor;

12 5. A superintendent of a rural public school district,
13 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

14 6. A special education director from an urban public school
15 district, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

16 7. A special education director from a rural public school
17 district, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

18 8. A service provider of special-education-related services,
19 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

20 9. A special education teacher, appointed by the State
21 Superintendent of Public Instruction;

22 10. A parent who is a resident of an urban public school
23 district, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

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1 11. A parent who is a resident of a rural public school
2 district, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3 12. A parent who is a resident of a suburban public school
4 district, appointed by the Board of the Oklahoma Developmental
5 Disabilities Council;

6 13. A private employer who employs individuals with
7 disabilities, appointed by the State Director of the Oklahoma
8 Department of Career and Technology Education;

9 14. A disability coordinator for a higher education
10 institution, appointed by the Governor;

11 15. A representative of a technology center school district,
12 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

13 16. A representative of the federally funded protection and
14 advocacy system for Oklahoma known as the Oklahoma Disability Law
15 Center, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

16 17. A currently employed self-advocate, appointed by the Board
17 of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council;

18 18. A self-advocate who is currently enrolled or was previously
19 enrolled at a technology center in the state, appointed by the
20 President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

21 19. A self-advocate who is currently enrolled or was previously
22 enrolled at an institution of higher education in the state,
23 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

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1 20. A professor in a college of education at an institution in
2 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, appointed by the
3 Governor;

4 21. A person with extensive knowledge of the Regional Education
5 Service Centers which were previously funded through the State
6 Department of Education, appointed by the Governor;

7 22. A person representing the Special Education Resolution
8 Center, appointed by the Governor;

9 23. A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

11 24. A member of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro
12 Tempore of the Senate.

13 D. The member of the House of Representatives and the member of
14 the Senate shall serve as cochairs of the Task Force. Appointments
15 to the Task Force shall be made within thirty (30) days after the
16 effective date of this act. Meetings of the Task Force shall be
17 held at the call of either cochair of the Task Force. Members shall
18 serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. A majority
19 of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to
20 transact business, but no vacancy shall impair the right of the
21 remaining members to exercise all of the powers of the Task Force.
22 Except as otherwise provided, a vacancy on the Task Force shall be
23 filled by the original appointing authority. If the original
24 appointing authority fails to make an appointment within thirty (30)

1 days after the effective date of this act, a majority of the members
2 of the Task Force who have been appointed may fill the vacancy to
3 the open positions. Staff support for the Task Force shall be
4 provided by the staff of the House of Representatives, Senate and
5 State Department of Education. The Oklahoma Department of Career
6 and Technology Education, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
7 Education, Office of Disability Concerns, State Department of
8 Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Department
9 of Human Services, and the State Use Committee for the Office of
10 Management and Enterprise Services shall provide support and
11 information as requested by the Task Force.

12 E. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for
13 serving on the Task Force, but may receive travel reimbursement,
14 contingent on the availability of private funds for this purpose.

15 F. The Task Force may seek the assistance of the Legislative
16 Service Bureau or the State Board of Education to contract with an
17 independent consultant as necessary to fulfill the duties specified
18 in this section contingent on the availability of funds.

19 G. The Task Force shall submit a final report by January 1,
20 ~~2014~~ 2015, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
21 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

22 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
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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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