

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 206

By: Floyd and Thompson

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to Merit Protection; creating the
9 Task Force on Merit Protection; providing expiration
10 date; stating purpose of Task Force; establishing
11 duties of Task Force; providing for membership;
12 providing for naming of chair; providing for quorum;
13 providing for frequency of meetings; subjecting
14 meetings to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act;
15 prohibiting compensation; providing for travel
16 reimbursement; directing staff support; requiring
17 certain report; and providing for noncodification.

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, 2017, the Task
22 Force on Merit Protection to study and evaluate the feasibility and
23 efficacy of transferring the oversight of the Merit Protection
24 Commission.

B. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and
recommendations by November 1, 2017, to the Governor, the President

1 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, which shall include, but not be limited to:

3 1. An analysis of the effects of transferring oversight and
4 recommendations for modification of the powers and duties of the
5 Commission;

6 2. Necessary changes, if any, to the Merit System of Personnel
7 Administration and the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission
8 Revolving Fund as may be required by a transfer of oversight;

9 3. Necessary changes, if any, to the Whistleblower Act, Section
10 840-2.5 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, as may be required by
11 a transfer of oversight; and

12 4. Recommendations to ensure the enforcement of protections for
13 employees and citizens under the Merit System of Personnel
14 Administration.

15 C. The task force shall be comprised of nine (9) members as
16 follows:

17 1. The Administrator of Human Capital Management of the Office
18 of Management and Enterprise Services or designee;

19 2. The Executive Director of the Merit Protection Commission or
20 designee;

21 3. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Public Employees
22 Association or designee;

23 4. Two members appointed by the Governor, no more than one of
24 whom shall be from the same political party;

1 5. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro
2 Tempore of the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be from the
3 same political party; and

4 6. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives, no more than one of whom
6 shall be from the same political party.

7 The Chair of the task force shall be selected by the Governor.

8 D. A quorum of the task force shall be required to approve any
9 final action of the task force. For purposes of this section, five
10 (5) members shall constitute a quorum.

11 E. The task force may meet as often as may be required in order
12 to perform the duties imposed upon it. The chair shall call the
13 first meeting and all subsequent meetings shall be made at the call
14 of the chair.

15 F. The meetings of the task force shall be subject to the
16 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

17 G. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for
18 their service, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

19 1. Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed
20 for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
21 duties in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74
22 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

23 2. Non-legislative members of the task force shall be
24 reimbursed by their appointing authorities or respective agencies

1 for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their
2 duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

3 H. Staff support shall be provided by the Governor's office,
4 the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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