

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 HOUSE BILL 3296

By: Humphrey

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to alternative court programs;
8 creating the Oklahoma Alternative Courts Task Force;
9 stating membership of the Task Force; providing for
10 an organizational meeting; providing for the election
11 of a chair, vice-chair, and other Task Force
12 positions; requiring the chair to call meetings;
13 providing quorum requirements; making meetings
14 subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; providing
15 for travel reimbursement; directing the Attorney
16 General to provide administrative support; stating
17 duties of the Task Force; defining term; providing
18 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 482 of Title 22, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Effective November 1, 2022, there is hereby created the
Oklahoma Alternative Courts Task Force, hereinafter referred to as
the "Task Force". The Task Force shall be comprised of six (6)
members to be selected as follows:

1. The Administrative Director of the Courts, or designee;

1 2. A retired district judge, as selected by the Presiding Judge
2 of the Court of Criminal Appeals, or designee;

3 3. A public defender of a county with a population of three
4 hundred fifty thousand (350,000) or more as determined by the latest
5 Federal Decennial Census, to be selected by the Administrative
6 Director of the Courts, or designee;

7 4. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense
8 System, or designee;

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

11 6. The Executive Coordinator of the District Attorneys Council.

12 B. The Task Force shall conduct an organizational meeting not
13 later than December 1, 2022. The Task Force shall elect by majority
14 vote a chair and vice-chair from members attending the
15 organizational meeting. The Task Force shall elect any other
16 officers during the organizational meeting and upon a vacancy in any
17 office.

18 C. The chair shall call the first meeting and all subsequent
19 meetings shall be made at the call of the chair. The Task Force may
20 meet as often as may be required in order to perform the duties
21 provided for in this section.

22 D. A quorum of the Task Force shall be required to approve any
23 final action and recommendation of the Task Force. For purposes of
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1 this section, four members of the Task Force shall constitute a
2 quorum.

3 E. The meetings of the Task Force shall be subject to the
4 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

5 F. The members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation,
6 but travel reimbursement may be provided by their respective
7 organizations within the limits provided for state employees in the
8 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

9 G. Administrative support for the Task Force shall be provided
10 by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

11 H. The Task Force shall be responsible for studying and making
12 recommendations regarding the current process for assessments and
13 investigations and the qualifications and requirements considered
14 necessary for acceptance of offenders into alternative court
15 programs. The recommendations of the Task Force shall attempt to
16 neutralize the decision-making process for determining who may
17 participate in an alternative court program. As used in this
18 section, "alternative court program" shall include, but not be
19 limited to, any drug court, mental health court, or veterans court.

20 I. The Task Force shall also make recommendations for removing
21 the requirement for which district attorneys must give their
22 approval before offenders are considered and accepted into
23 alternative court programs.

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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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