

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1036

By: Rosecrants, Pae, Waldron,  
Menz, Hefner, Ranson, and  
West (Josh) of the House

3  
4 and

Kidd of the Senate

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8 An Act relating to veterans; creating the Veteran  
9 Suicide Prevention Task Force; setting end date for  
10 task force; providing for task force membership;  
11 specifying deadline for task force appointments;  
12 providing for certain coordination in appointing task  
13 force members; establishing deadline for task force  
14 organizational meeting; providing for selection of  
15 chair and vice chair; providing for task force  
16 duties; setting quorum requirement; subjecting task  
17 force to Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; prohibiting  
18 compensation and reimbursement for task force  
19 members; providing for staffing and administrative  
20 support of task force; directing submission of a  
21 report of findings and recommendations; providing for  
22 noncodification.

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

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

A. There is hereby created until November 30, 2024, the Veteran  
Suicide Prevention Task Force to study and make recommendations  
regarding the causes and prevention of suicides among veterans in  
the state.

1 B. The task force shall be comprised of nine (9) members to be  
2 appointed as follows:

3 1. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Oklahoma  
4 Veterans Commission;

5 2. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives;

7 3. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
8 Representatives;

9 4. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
10 Senate;

11 5. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

12 6. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Commissioner of  
13 the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
14 Services;

15 7. One member employed by the Oklahoma State Department of  
16 Health appointed by the Commissioner of Health;

17 8. One member employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans  
18 Affairs appointed by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma  
19 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

20 9. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Governor.

21 C. Appointments to the task force shall be made within sixty  
22 (60) days after the effective date of this act. The appointing  
23 authorities shall coordinate their appointments to reflect the best  
24 interests of veterans of this state. To the extent practicable, the

1 appointing authorities shall appoint a veteran to serve on the task  
2 force.

3 D. The task force shall conduct an organizational meeting not  
4 later than November 1, 2023. A chair and vice chair shall be  
5 selected to serve by the membership of the task force at the  
6 organizational meeting. The task force may meet as often as may be  
7 required to perform the duties imposed upon it.

8 E. The task force shall organize and prioritize its objectives.  
9 The task force may coordinate, communicate, and collaborate with  
10 state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and  
11 private health care entities, and state educational institutions  
12 regarding issues associated with veteran suicide.

13 F. A quorum of the task force shall be required to approve any  
14 final action of the task force. For purposes of this section, five  
15 (5) members shall constitute a quorum.

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

18 H. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation or  
19 travel reimbursement.

20 I. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and the House of  
21 Representatives shall provide staff and administrative support for  
22 the task force.

23 J. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and  
24 recommendations no later than November 30, 2024, to the Speaker of

1 the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
2 and Governor.

3 Passed the House of Representatives the 20th day of March, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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