

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 1137

By: McDaniel (Jeannie)

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to prisons and reformatories;
8 creating the Corrections Ombudsman Task Force;
9 providing termination date; stating purpose of Task
10 Force; providing for membership; providing date for
11 appointments and organizational meeting; providing
12 for selection of officers; stating duties; requiring
13 Task Force to comply with certain acts; providing for
14 meetings; providing staff assistance; requiring
15 completion of study by certain date; providing for
16 noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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

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

20 A. There is hereby created until December 31, 2016, the
21 "Corrections Ombudsman Task Force". The purpose of the Task Force
22 shall be to study the necessity of creating an Office of Corrections
23 Ombudsman within the office of the Governor.

24 B. The Task Force shall consist of eleven (11) members as
follows:

1. The Governor, or a designee;

1 2. The Director of the State Department of Corrections, or a
2 designee;

3 3. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or
4 a designee;

5 4. The Executive Director of the Pardon and Parole Board, or a
6 designee;

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

9 6. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,
10 appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;

11 7. Two members of the Oklahoma State Senate, appointed by the
12 President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate;

13 8. One member who is an advocate for correctional officers,
14 appointed by the Governor; and

15 9. One member who has a family member currently incarcerated
16 with the Department of Corrections, appointed by the Governor.

17 C. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by November 1,
18 2015. The chair shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma
19 House of Representatives on or before December 1, 2015. The vice-
20 chair shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
21 Oklahoma State Senate on or before December 1, 2015. The Task Force
22 shall conduct an organizational meeting not later than December 31,
23 2015.

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1 D. The Task Force shall investigate and make recommendations
2 regarding the necessity of establishing and funding an Office of
3 Corrections Ombudsman within the office of the Governor.

4 E. The Task Force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting
5 Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

6 F. The Task Force shall be authorized to meet at such times as
7 may be required in order to fulfill the duties imposed upon the Task
8 Force. Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for necessary
9 travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as
10 follows:

11 1. Members who are state employees shall be reimbursed for
12 travel expenses in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement
13 Act;

14 2. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with
15 Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

16 3. All other members shall be reimbursed in accordance with the
17 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

18 G. Staff assistance for the Task Force shall be provided by the
19 State Department of Corrections.

20 H. The Task Force shall complete its study not later than
21 December 31, 2016.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 2015.

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24 55-1-5489 GRS 01/18/15