

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3023

By: Humphrey

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to whistleblower protection; stating
9 public policy; defining term; prescribing criminal
10 punishment for certain actions; providing for
11 incarceration; providing for imposition of fine;
12 providing for civil cause of action; specifying
13 recoverable damages; providing for award of attorney
14 fees; providing for award of costs; providing for
15 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 25001 of Title 74, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 It is the public policy of this state to protect those persons
21 disclosing wrongdoing by state agencies, political subdivisions,
22 public trusts, and those in the private sector who have supervisory
23 or other controls over persons in their workplace who report
24 wrongdoing without fear or threat of retaliation. Such persons
reporting wrongdoing shall be known as "whistleblowers".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 25002 of Title 74, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. As used in this section "retaliation" means any threat or
5 action to terminate, demote, refusal to promote, threaten or
6 intimidate a whistle blower who reports wrongdoing.

7 B. Any public official and/or employee, employer or employee
8 who supervises a whistleblower that engages in an action or activity
9 that violated public policy as defined in Section 1 of this act for
10 reporting wrongdoing shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by
11 incarceration for up to one (1) year and a Five Thousand Dollar
12 (\$5,000.00) fine, and liable civilly for all economic, emotional and
13 mental anguish directly caused thereby together with punitive
14 damages, and such person shall be prohibited from holding any public
15 office or employment.

16 C. Any whistle blower who successfully prosecutes an action
17 under this act shall be entitled to a reasonable attorney fee
18 together with costs.

19 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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21 59-2-10342 LRB 02/20/24

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