

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 206

By: Floyd, Thompson and Pittman  
of the Senate

and

Osburn (Mike) and Roberts  
(Dustin) of the House

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

SUBJECT: Merit Protection Task Force

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 December 31, 2017, the Task Force on Merit Protection to study and evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of transferring the oversight of the Merit Protection Commission.

B. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations by November 1, 2017, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which shall include, but not be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Non-legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed by their appointing authorities or respective agencies for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

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

Passed the Senate the 7th day of March, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 24th day of April, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_