

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 674

By: Treat

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to crime and punishment; creating the Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime Task Force; providing sunset date; providing purpose; providing for membership; stating quorum; allowing election of chairperson and vice chairperson; requiring appointments and first meeting within certain timeframe; disallowing compensation; providing staff; authorizing certain consultations; requiring certain report; providing report requirements; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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 2200 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime Task Force until December 31, 2024. The purpose of the task force shall be to provide the Legislature and the Governor with information on organized retail crime and the advantages and drawbacks of instituting various countermeasures to counter losses from retail theft in the state.

1 B. The task force shall consist of eleven (11) members as
2 follows:

3 1. Three members, appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall
4 be an individual who represents state or local law enforcement;

5 2. Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
6 Senate;

7 3. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives;

9 4. One member appointed by the District Attorneys Council;

10 5. One member appointed by the Oklahoma Retail Merchants
11 Association;

12 6. One member appointed by the State Chamber; and

13 7. One member appointed by the Attorney General.

14 C. Quorum for official business of the task force shall be six
15 members. A chairperson and a vice chairperson shall be elected by a
16 majority vote of the members of the task force.

17 D. Appointments to the task force shall be made by the
18 appointing authority no later than sixty (60) days after the
19 effective date of this act. Appointed members shall, to the
20 greatest extent practicable, have by education or experience,
21 knowledge of organized retail theft. The chair shall hold the first
22 meeting of the task force no later than ninety (90) days after the
23 effective date of this act. Any vacancies in the membership of the
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1 task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for in the
2 initial appointment.

3 E. The members of the task force shall receive no compensation
4 but shall receive travel reimbursement for necessary travel expenses
5 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the
6 State Travel Reimbursement Act. The task force shall be staffed by
7 the Senate.

8 F. The task force may consult with any organization, government
9 entity, or person in the development of its report required pursuant
10 to the provisions of subsection G of this section.

11 G. On or before December 15, 2024, the task force shall
12 electronically submit to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of
13 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
14 chairs of the House and Senate committees that oversee public
15 safety, a report containing, but not limited to, the following
16 information based on available data:

17 1. A review of laws and regulations on organized retail crime
18 used by other states, the federal government, and foreign countries
19 to regulate the marketplace;

20 2. The use of organized retail theft's impact on state and
21 local tax receipts;

22 3. The need for interagency coordination of public education
23 and outreach and prevention programs for business owners; and
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1 4. Legislative and regulatory recommendations, if any, to
2 increase transparency and security, enhance consumer protections,
3 prevent organized retail theft, and to address the long-term
4 economic impact related to the prevalence of organized retail crime.

5 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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