STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

SENATE BILL 1261

By: Holt

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to criminal justice reform; creating the Task Force on Oklahoma Criminal Justice Reform; providing expiration date; stating purpose; providing for appointments; specifying date by which appointments are made; providing for vacancies; providing for designation of co-chairs; specifying quorum; providing for meetings and staffing; stating that Task Force members shall receive no compensation; providing for reimbursement; requiring Task Force to comply with the Open Meeting Act and the Open Records Act; requiring examination of certain information; requiring report; providing for codification; providing an effective date; 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 69 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created to continue until July 1, 2018, the Advisory Task Force on Oklahoma Criminal Justice Reform. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to advise the legislature on:
1. The use of a defendant's risk and needs assessment during the courts presentencing deliberation and the impact of a potential sentence on the reduction of the defendant's potential behavior;

2. All supervision and treatment programs provided for offenders to utilize evidence-based practices to reduce the likelihood of future criminal behavior;

3. All state-funded supervision and treatment programs to measure and ensure reduction of criminal behavior;

4. Methods of cost savings and reinvestment of a portion of those savings into expanded treatment services and enhance probation and parole supervision efforts; and

5. Develop recommendations for reforms that:
   a. best serve offenders with mental illness,
   b. respect the civil liberties of offenders to be served,
   c. address the potential for racial bias and health disparities in program implementation,
   d. are based on evidence of the effectiveness,
   e. include a data monitoring strategy,
   f. promote programs that target specific goals for offenders,
   g. address the potential for variance in program implementation among urban and rural jurisdictions,
h. assess the cost of the program to the Department of Corrections.

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

1. Four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:
   a. one shall be a member of the majority party of the House of Representatives with knowledge of criminal justice issues,
   b. one shall be a member of the minority party of the House of Representatives with knowledge of criminal justice issues
   c. one shall be a representative of the social services nonprofit community, and
   d. one shall be a member of the criminal justice community;

2. Four shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as follows:
   a. one shall be a member of the majority party of the Senate with knowledge of criminal justice issues,
   b. one shall be a member of the minority party of the Senate with knowledge of criminal justice issues,
   c. one shall be a representative of the criminal justice community, and
d. one shall be a member of the legal community; and

3. Three shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:
   a. one shall be the Director of the Department of Corrections, or a designee,
   b. one shall be an active County Sheriff, or a designee, and
   c. one shall be an active District Attorney, or a designee.

D. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by September 1, 2016. Task Force members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. A vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

E. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the members of the Task Force. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to do business. The Senate and House of Representatives shall, at the discretion of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, provide staff support to the Task Force as necessary to assist in the performance of its duties.

F. Members of the Task Force shall determine meeting dates. Members shall not be compensated for their service but may be reimbursed by their appointing authorities for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, as follows:
1. Legislative members may be reimbursed for their 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;

2. Nonlegislative members who are state officers or employees may be reimbursed by their respective agencies for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

3. Members who are not legislators or state officers or employees of the state may be reimbursed by their appointing authorities in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

G. The Task Force shall submit a report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives by September 1, 2017, describing assessment and recommendations provided by subsection A of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.