

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL 145

By: Floyd

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to Merit Protection; creating the  
8 Task Force on Merit Protection; providing expiration  
9 date; stating purpose of Task Force; establishing  
10 duties of Task Force; providing for membership;  
11 providing for naming of Chair; providing for quorum;  
12 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; providing for noncodification; and  
providing an effective date.

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

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

18 A. There is hereby created until December 31, 2020, the Task  
19 Force on Merit Protection to study and evaluate the feasibility and  
20 efficacy of transferring the oversight of the Merit Protection  
21 Commission to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

22 B. The Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and  
23 recommendations by November 1, 2020, to the Governor, the President  
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1 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of

2 Representatives, which shall include, but not be limited to:

3 1. An analysis of the effects of transferring the oversight of  
4 the Merit Protection Commission to the judicial branch;

5 2. Recommendations for modification of the powers and duties of  
6 the Commission;

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

10 4. Necessary changes, if any, to the Whistleblower Act, Section  
11 840-2.5 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, as may be required by  
12 a transfer of oversight; and

13 5. Recommendations to ensure the enforcement of protections for  
14 employees and citizens under the Merit System of Personnel  
15 Administration.

16 C. The Task Force shall be comprised of thirteen (13) members  
17 as follows:

18 1. The Administrative Director of the Courts or designee;

19 2. The Chair of the Merit Protection Commission or designee;

20 3. The Executive Director of the Merit Protection Commission or  
21 designee;

22 4. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Public Employees  
23 Association or designee;

1           5. Three members appointed by the Governor, no more than two of  
2 whom shall be from the same political party;

3           6. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro  
4 Tempore of the Senate, no more than two of whom shall be from the  
5 same political party; and

6           7. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by  
7 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, no more than two of  
8 whom shall be from the same political party.

9           The Chair of the Task Force shall be selected by the Governor.

10          D. A quorum of the Task Force shall be required to approve any  
11 final action of the Task Force. For purposes of this section, seven  
12 (7) members shall constitute a quorum.

13          E. The Task Force may meet as often as may be required in order  
14 to perform the duties imposed upon it. The Chair shall call the  
15 first meeting and all subsequent meetings shall be made at the call  
16 of the Chair.

17          F. The meetings of the Task Force shall be subject to the  
18 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

19          G. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for  
20 their service, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

21           1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed  
22 for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
23 duties in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74  
24 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

1           2. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed  
2 by their appointing authorities or respective agencies for necessary  
3 travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in  
4 accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

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

7           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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