

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 3023

By: Humphrey of the House

and

**Bullard** of the Senate

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11                                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

21                   SECTION 1.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
22                   in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 25001 of Title 74, unless there  
23                   is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:  
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1 It is the public policy of this state to protect those persons  
2 disclosing wrongdoing by state agencies, political subdivisions,  
3 public trusts, and those in the private sector who have supervisory  
4 or other controls over persons in their workplace who report  
5 wrongdoing without fear or threat of retaliation. Such persons  
6 reporting wrongdoing shall be known as "whistleblowers".

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

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

13 B. Any public official and/or employee, employer or employee  
14 who supervises a whistleblower that engages in an action or activity  
15 that violated public policy as defined in Section 1 of this act for  
16 reporting wrongdoing shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by  
17 incarceration for up to one (1) year and a Five Thousand Dollar  
18 (\$5,000.00) fine, and liable civilly for all economic, emotional and  
19 mental anguish directly caused thereby together with punitive  
20 damages, and such person shall be prohibited from holding any public  
21 office or employment.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 02/22/2024 - DO PASS,  
As Amended and Coauthored.