

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 12, 2023

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 1036

By: Rosecrants, Pae, Waldron,
Menz, Hefner, Ranson, and
West (Josh) of the House

5 and

6 Kidd of the Senate

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9 An Act relating to veterans; creating the Veteran
10 Suicide Prevention Task Force; setting end date for
11 task force; providing for task force membership;
12 specifying deadline for task force appointments;
13 providing for certain coordination in appointing task
14 force members; establishing deadline for task force
15 organizational meeting; providing for selection of
16 chair and vice chair; providing for task force
17 duties; setting quorum requirement; subjecting task
18 force to Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; prohibiting
19 compensation and reimbursement for task force
20 members; providing for staffing and administrative
21 support of task force; directing submission of a
22 report of findings and recommendations; providing for
23 noncodification.
24

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 November 30, 2024, the Veteran
Suicide Prevention Task Force to study and make recommendations
regarding the causes and prevention of suicides among veterans in
the state.

1 B. The task force shall be comprised of nine (9) members to be
2 appointed as follows:

3 1. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Oklahoma
4 Veterans Commission;

5 2. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
6 Representatives;

7 3. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
8 Representatives;

9 4. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
10 Senate;

11 5. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

12 6. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Commissioner of
13 the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
14 Services;

15 7. One member employed by the Oklahoma State Department of
16 Health appointed by the Commissioner of Health;

17 8. One member employed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
18 Affairs appointed by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma
19 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

20 9. One member who is a veteran appointed by the Governor.

21 C. Appointments to the task force shall be made within sixty
22 (60) days after the effective date of this act. The appointing
23 authorities shall coordinate their appointments to reflect the best
24 interests of veterans of this state. To the extent practicable, the

1 appointing authorities shall appoint a veteran to serve on the task
2 force.

3 D. The task force shall conduct an organizational meeting not
4 later than November 1, 2023. A chair and vice chair shall be
5 selected to serve by the membership of the task force at the
6 organizational meeting. The task force may meet as often as may be
7 required to perform the duties imposed upon it.

8 E. The task force shall organize and prioritize its objectives.
9 The task force may coordinate, communicate, and collaborate with
10 state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and
11 private health care entities, and state educational institutions
12 regarding issues associated with veteran suicide.

13 F. A quorum of the task force shall be required to approve any
14 final action of the task force. For purposes of this section, five
15 (5) members shall constitute a quorum.

16 G. The meetings of the task force shall be subject to the
17 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

18 H. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation or
19 travel reimbursement.

20 I. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and the House of
21 Representatives shall provide staff and administrative support for
22 the task force.

23 J. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and
24 recommendations no later than November 30, 2024, to the Speaker of

1 the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
2 and Governor.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
4 April 12, 2023 - DO PASS

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