

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 9, 2024

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE

5 BILL NO. 3023

By: Humphrey of the House

and

Bullard of the Senate

7  
8 **[ whistleblower protection - public policy -**  
9 **punishment - incarceration - fine - civil cause of**  
10 **action - recoverable damages - attorney fees - costs**  
11 **- codification - effective date ]**

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

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 25001 of Title 74, unless there  
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 It is the public policy of this state to protect those persons  
17 disclosing wrongdoing by state agencies, political subdivisions,  
18 public trusts, and those in the private sector who have supervisory  
19 or other controls over persons in their workplace who report  
20 wrongdoing without fear or threat of retaliation. Such persons  
21 reporting wrongdoing shall be known as "whistleblowers".

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

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

4       B. Any public official and/or employee, employer or employee  
5 who supervises a whistleblower that engages in an action or activity  
6 that violated public policy as defined in Section 1 of this act for  
7 reporting wrongdoing shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by  
8 incarceration for up to one (1) year and a Five Thousand Dollar  
9 (\$5,000.00) fine, and liable civilly for all economic, emotional and  
10 mental anguish directly caused thereby together with punitive  
11 damages, and such person shall be prohibited from holding any public  
12 office or employment.

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

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

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
18 April 9, 2024 - DO PASS AS AMENDED

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