HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 1036

By: Rosecrants and Pae of the House

and

Kidd of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to veterans; creating the Veteran Suicide Prevention Task Force; setting end date for task force; providing for task force membership; specifying deadline for task force appointments; providing for certain coordination in appointing task force members; establishing deadline for task force organizational meeting; providing for selection of chair and vice chair; providing for task force duties; setting quorum requirement; subjecting task force to Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; prohibiting compensation and reimbursement for task force members; providing for staffing and administrative support of task force; directing submission of a report of findings and recommendations; providing for noncodification.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. Appointments to the task force shall be made within sixty
(60) days after the effective date of this act. The appointing
authorities shall coordinate their appointments so that diversity of
gender, race, and geographical areas are reflective of the makeup of
this state. To the extent practicable, the appointing authorities
shall appoint a veteran to serve on the task force.

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

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

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

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

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

I. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and the House of
Representatives shall provide staff and administrative support for
the task force.
J. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations no later than November 30, 2024, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Governor.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS, dated 02/08/2023 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.