

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1559

By: Pederson

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to volunteer fire departments;
8 creating the Volunteer Firefighter Standardized
9 Billing Task Force; establishing members to be
10 appointed by certain public officials; appointing
11 Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshall to
12 serve on Task Force; requiring appointments be made
13 by certain date; establishing vacancy provisions;
14 establishing quorum; requiring Task Force meet by
15 certain date and conduct a certain number of meetings
16 thereafter; requiring Insurance Department staff Task
17 Force; requiring Task Force members be reimbursed
18 pursuant to State Travel Reimbursement Act;
19 establishing purpose of Task Force; requiring report
20 of recommendations be submitted by certain date;
21 providing for codification; providing an effective
22 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

24 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 29-207 of Title 11, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

25 A. 1. There is hereby created to continue until February 1,
26 2023, the Volunteer Firefighter Standardized Billing Task Force.

27 2. The Task Force shall consist of ten (10) members. Of the
28 ten (10) members:

1 a. four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives as follows:

3 (1) one shall be a member of the House of
4 Representatives and shall serve as cochair,

5 (2) one shall represent the Oklahoma Municipal
6 League,

7 (3) one shall represent the Volunteer Firefighters
8 Association of Oklahoma, and

9 (4) one shall be a fire chief located in a rural
10 area,

11 b. four shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
12 of the Senate as follows:

13 (1) one shall be a member of the Senate and shall
14 serve as cochair,

15 (2) one shall represent the Oklahoma State
16 Firefighters Association,

17 (3) one shall represent the Department of Public
18 Safety, and

19 (4) one shall be a chief of a volunteer firefighter
20 department,

21 c. one shall be the Insurance Commissioner or designee,
22 and

23 d. one shall be the Oklahoma State Fire Marshall or
24 designee.

1 B. 1. Appointed members of the Task Force shall serve at the
2 pleasure of their appointing authority.

3 2. A vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by the original
4 appointing authority.

5 3. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made by August 1,
6 2022.

7 C. 1. A majority of the members present at a meeting shall
8 constitute a quorum to do business.

9 2. The cochairs of the Task Force shall convene the first
10 meeting of the Task Force on or before September 1, 2022, at which
11 time a schedule of the meetings shall be determined. The Task Force
12 shall meet no less than five times before issuing a report of its
13 recommendations pursuant to subsection F of this section.

14 3. The Insurance Department shall provide staff support for the
15 Task Force.

16 D. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation but
17 shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the
18 performance of their duties pursuant to the provisions of the State
19 Travel Reimbursement Act as follows:

20 1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed in
21 accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the
22 Oklahoma Statutes; and

23 2. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed
24 by their appointing authorities.

1 E. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to make
2 recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the
3 promulgation of standardized rates to be charged to insurance
4 companies for calls conducted by volunteer fire departments.

5 F. The Task Force shall issue a report of its recommendations
6 to the Legislature and Governor no later than January 1, 2023.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

8 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
9 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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