STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

SENATE BILL 1223

By: Garrison

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to pesticides; creating a task force to study and create recommendations based on pesticides and their effect on pollinator populations; providing expiration date; setting duties; providing for membership; providing for naming of chair; providing for quorum; providing that members receive no compensation; providing for travel reimbursement if funds are available; providing for staff support; requiring certain report; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-85.1 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created, to continue until December 31, 2017, the "Pollinator and Pesticide Task Force".

B. The Task Force shall serve in an advisory capacity to the state legislature to study and develop legislative recommendations to address the issue of declining pollinator populations in the State of Oklahoma. The Task Force shall study, review and make recommendations on the following:
1. The causes of declining populations of pollinators;
2. The effects of certain pesticides on pollinators, specifically the class of neonicotinoids;
3. The costs and benefits of using certain pesticides, specifically the class of neonicotinoids;
4. The costs and benefits of using alternative pesticides or pest control methods that have a reduced impact on pollinators; and
5. Solutions to increase pollinator populations.

C. The Task Force shall consist of five (5) members:
1. The Secretary of Agriculture or designee;
2. The Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission or designee;
3. One member of the agriculture industry, appointed by the Governor;
4. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and
5. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

D. The member of the House of Representatives and the member of the Senate shall serve as co-chairs of the Task Force. Appointments to the Task Force shall be made within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. Meetings of the Task Force shall be held at the call of either co-chair of the Task Force. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. A
majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact business, but no vacancy shall impair the right of the remaining members to exercise all of the powers of the Task Force. A vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by the original appointing authority. Staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the staff of the House of Representatives, Senate and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality shall provide support and information as requested by the Task Force.

E. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force, but may receive travel reimbursement by the appointing authority in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act, contingent on the availability of public or private funds for this purpose. Legislative members may be reimbursed pursuant to Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

F. The Task Force shall submit a final report by November 30, 2017, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.