

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2297

BY: MADDOX (Jim)

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES;

AMENDING 57 O.S. 1991, SECTION 561, WHICH RELATES  
TO INCARCERATION AND HOUSING OF INMATES AT CERTAIN  
FACILITIES; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR CONTRACTING  
WITH VENDORS FOR HOUSING IN HALF-WAY HOUSES;  
REQUIRING VENDORS TO MEET CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS;  
PROVIDING CERTAIN CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS; REQUIRING  
NONDISCRIMINATORY ZONING; DEFINING TERM; PROVIDING  
FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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 561.1 of Title 57, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. In addition to other requirements provided by law, the  
provisions of this section shall apply to contracts entered into  
after June 30, 1992, by the Department of Corrections and  
correctional vendors for housing of inmates in facilities commonly  
referred to as half-way houses.

B. Vendors shall:

1. Apply for accreditation by the American Correctional Association within six (6) months after the signing of the contract and receive such accreditation within eighteen (18) months after the signing of the contract, if accreditation has not been obtained prior to the signing of the contract;

2. Maintain accreditation by the American Correctional Association for the duration of the contract;

3. Have the number of beds specified in the contract available at the time of submitting a bid for the contract or provide the Department of Corrections with evidence, satisfactory to the Director of the Department of Corrections, that the beds will be available within one hundred twenty (120) days after the signing of the contract;

4. Have at least one site staff employee on duty at the facility at all times; and

5. Have at least one full-time counselor employed at the facility.

C. Accreditation by any entity other than the American Correctional Association shall not be accepted by the Department of Corrections in lieu of the accreditation requirements of subsection B of this section.

D. A vendor shall not house inmates with clients who are not inmates.

E. Funds collected by the Department of Corrections from fees paid by inmates housed in half-way houses shall be used, in addition to the yearly appropriation, for housing inmates in half-way houses, and payments to half-way houses shall not be less than ninety-five percent (95%) of this amount.

F. Contracts for housing of inmates in half-way houses shall:

1. Be for a maximum period of three (3) years, subject to annual appropriation by the Legislature; and

2. Contain a provision providing half-way house vendors with a cost of living increase for salaries for half-way house personnel equal to any cost of living increase granted to employees for the Department of Corrections.

G. The Department of Corrections shall develop an evaluation system modeled after or equivalent to the system for evaluation used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, which is similar to U.S. Prison Guide to Judiciary Policy and Procedures, Chapter 12, "Contracting Procedure for Substance and Mental Health Treatment", that shall be used in evaluating vendor proposals.

H. Providers of substance abuse treatment and other rehabilitation services, including residential and transitional living facilities, pursuant to a contract with the Department of Corrections, the United States Bureau of Prisons or the United States Probation Office shall not be classified as prisons or as any other type of correctional facilities in zoning ordinances, or treated as having a different use in such zoning ordinances as compared to other treatment or transitional living facilities providing services to the general public, solely on the basis that such services are provided to persons under the supervision of the Department of Corrections, the United States Bureau of Prisons, or the United States Probation Office.

I. As used in this section and Section 561 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes, "half-way house" means a private facility for the placement of inmates in a community setting for the purpose of reintegrating into the community inmates who are nearing their release dates. The term shall not include private prisons.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 1991, Section 561, is amended to read as follows:

Section 561. A. The Department of Corrections is hereby authorized to provide for incarceration, supervision, and residential treatment at facilities other than those operated by the

Department of Corrections. Services offered for persons under the custody or supervision of the Department are to include, but not be limited to, housing, alcoholism or drug treatment, mental health services, or nursing home care. Such services must meet standards prescribed and established by the Board of Corrections for implementing such a program, including but not limited to standards concerning internal and perimeter security, discipline of inmates, educational and vocational training programs, employment of inmates, and proper food, clothing, housing, and medical care. Such services must be contracted for in accordance with Section 85.7 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Such services, if provided by correctional vendors in facilities commonly referred to as half-way houses, shall be contracted for as provided in Section 1 of this act. Such services, if provided by private prison contractors, shall be contracted for as provided in subsections C through J of this section.

B. The Department of Corrections is hereby authorized to provide for the operation of correctional institutions of the Department by private prison contractors. Such operation shall meet standards prescribed by the Board of Corrections, including but not limited to, standards concerning internal and perimeter security, discipline of inmates, educational and vocational training programs, and proper food, clothing, housing, and medical care. Such services shall be contracted for in accordance with the provisions of subsections C through J of this section.

C. A comprehensive file for all private prison contractors interested in and capable of operating an institution within the Department or providing for the housing, care, and control of inmates in a facility owned and operated by the contractor shall be maintained by the Department. These files shall include a completed application form, a resume of the contractor's staff and capability, a completed performance evaluation form for past projects on which

the contractor has provided private prison services, a list of past contracts with this state, and a list of contracts to provide similar services to other states or to the United States.

The file shall include the mailing address of each private prison contractor.

Any person or firm wishing to be a private prison contractor may request at any time to be included in the comprehensive file, and shall be provided necessary forms within twenty (20) days of the request and the Department shall add such contractor to the list within twenty (20) days of receipt of a properly completed application.

The Department may solicit evaluation of work done by private prison contractors from members of the private sector, which evaluation shall be part of the comprehensive file.

D. If the Department intends to secure the services of a private prison contractor, all persons and firms included in the file shall be notified through the mail of such intent. Such notification shall contain the following information:

1. Description and scope of the project or projects;
2. Estimated time schedule for project;
3. Last date for submitting notice of interest in performing services to Director; and
4. Other pertinent data.

Private prison contractors desiring consideration shall meet the requirements of this section and to be considered shall submit a letter expressing interest in the project to the Department within thirty (30) days of the postmark date of the letter of notification mailed by the Department. Contractors shall file an updated application form at the request of the Department.

E. The Department shall define the scope of a proposed project, determine the various project components, phases and timetables, and prepare detailed project descriptions to guide prospective

contractors. Before the Department awards a contract to a private prison contractor, the plans shall be approved by the Board.

F. The Department shall review the files of the private prison contractors desiring consideration for the project, and shall select no less than three and no more than five contractors for more detailed consideration. In the event interviews for more than one contract are being considered at the same time, the number of contractors selected for more detailed consideration should be at least twice the number of contracts contemplated. This initial screening should consider the requirements of the project, as well as the following factors to be determined from the comprehensive file, and replies to inquiries to former clients:

1. Specialized experience in the type of work contemplated;
2. Capacity of the contractor to accomplish the work in the required time; and
3. Past performance, from the performance evaluation form.

G. A full report of the evaluation procedures and recommendations of the Department shall be prepared by the Department and submitted to the Board for the independent review of the entire process.

H. The Department shall select the contractor whose qualifications and project proposal most substantially meet the criteria of the project description. The Department shall negotiate the contract with the selected contractor, which contract shall include a fair and reasonable fee. The negotiated scope and fee shall be reported to the Board for the approval of the award of the contract. The contract shall be sent to the Office of Public Affairs for approval or disapproval. If the Office of Public Affairs disapproves the contract or the Department and the selected contractor cannot reach an agreement, the Department may either renegotiate with the selected contractor or begin negotiations with the next-choice contractor. Should the Department be unable to

negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the three selected contractors, the Department shall select additional contractors in order of their competency and qualifications and shall continue negotiations in accordance with the provisions of this section until an agreement is reached.

I. Should there be an inadequate expression of interest in the project, the Director and the Board shall confer to add additional private prison contractors for consideration which are known to be appropriate for the project.

J. The Office of Public Affairs shall render assistance to the Department of Corrections in implementing the contracting procedures provided for in this section. The Office of Public Affairs may have a representative at any meeting involving negotiations of a contract between the Department and a private prison contractor.

K. The Director of Public Affairs is authorized to lease real property and improvements thereon to a private prison contractor in conjunction with a contract for private management of a state correctional institution located or to be built on the property. Said lease may be entered into for one (1) year periods, renewable at the sole option of the State of Oklahoma, but not to exceed a cumulative period of fifty (50) years.

L. Contracts awarded to private prison contractors pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be entered into for a period of one (1) year, subject to renewal at the option of the State of Oklahoma for a cumulative period not to exceed fifty (50) years.

M. No contract authorized by the provisions of this section shall be awarded until the private prison contractor demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board of Corrections:

1. That the contractor possesses the necessary qualifications and experience to provide the services specified in the contract;

2. That the contractor can provide the necessary qualified personnel to implement the terms of the contract;

3. That the financial condition of the contractor is such that the terms of the contract can be fulfilled;

4. That the contractor has the ability to comply with applicable court orders and corrections standards; and

5. That, in the case of a contractor who will be providing the services in a nondepartmental facility operated by said contractor, the contractor shall be able to meet accreditation standards and receive accreditation, as required by the terms of the contract pursuant to subsection R of this section.

N. No contract authorized by the provisions of this section shall be awarded until the private prison contractor demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the contractor can obtain insurance or provide self-insurance to:

1. Indemnify the state against possible lawsuits arising from the operation of prison facilities by the contractor; and

2. Compensate the state for any property damage or expenses incurred due to the operation of prison facilities.

O. A private prison contractor shall not be bound by state laws or other legislative enactments governing the appointment, qualifications, duties, salaries, or benefits of wardens, superintendents, or other correctional employees, except that any personnel authorized to carry and use firearms shall comply with the certification standards required by the provisions of Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and be authorized to use firearms only to prevent a felony, to prevent escape from custody, or to prevent an act which would cause death or serious bodily injury to the personnel or to another person.

P. Any offense which would be a crime if committed within a state correctional institution also shall be a crime if committed in an institution or facility operated by a private prison contractor.

Q. The Director or his designee shall monitor the performance of the contractor.

R. Any contract between the Department and a private prison contractor, whereby the contractor provides for the housing, care, and control of inmates in a nondepartmental facility operated by the contractor, shall contain, in addition to other provisions, terms and conditions:

1. Requiring the contractor to provide said services in a facility which meets accreditation standards established by the American Corrections Association;

2. Requiring the contractor to receive accreditation for said facility from the American Corrections Association, within three (3) years of commencement of operations of the facility;

3. Requiring the contractor to obtain written authorization from the governing board of any municipality in which the facility is to be located, or if the facility is not to be located within a municipality, written authorization from the board of county commissioners of the county in which the facility is to be located; and

4. Granting the Department the option at the beginning of each fiscal year to purchase or lease, at a predetermined price, any such facility.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1992.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

43-2-7186

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