

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2606

By: Caldwell and Gray

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to prisons and reformatories; making legislative findings and declarations; providing limit upon inmate expenditures; establishing guidelines for determination of maximum expenditure; defining terms; 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 901 of Title 57, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Legislature makes the following findings and declarations:

1. Additional prison capacity is desperately needed to stop the early release of repeat and violent offenders;

2. Expenditures in excess of levels necessary to provide constitutionally mandated conditions of confinement increase the cost of administering prisons, thereby diverting funds which could be used to expand current prison capacity;

3. Inmates should not be entitled, by virtue of their imprisonment, to live better than the law-abiding poor living at the poverty level;

4. Living conditions inside prison should not be as comfortable as living conditions outside of prison; and

5. The citizens of the State of Oklahoma should not be required to spend more money on the administration of prisons than is necessary to achieve the minimum standards for conditions of confinement mandated by the United States Constitution.

B. In prisons constructed pursuant to the provisions of this act, the per inmate expenditure may not exceed the poverty guideline level.

C. As used in this section:

1. "Poverty guideline level" means one hundred ten percent (110%) of the dollar allowance in the poverty guideline for additional family members in the largest households, as established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

2. "Per inmate expenditure" means an institution's allocated expenditure for providing food, shelter, clothing, goods, services and basic education programs at the General Equivalency Degree level and below, excluding costs specifically related to medical care and institutional security.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1994.

44-2-8646

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