

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1028

By: Erwin and Bastin

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing the need for habilitation and rehabilitation of prisoners and directing the Department of Corrections to attempt to enter into negotiations for certain Intergovernmental Agreements; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, national statistics rank the Oklahoma Correctional System at the third highest level of incarceration of adult men in the nation, and first for the highest level of incarceration of adult women in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma's prison population continues to increase at alarming rates against limited prison resources available for incarceration, habilitation and rehabilitation of both new and repeat offenders; and

WHEREAS, recidivism rates reflect prisoners are apparently not adequately habilitated or rehabilitated prior to release and, therefore, become repeat offenders or demonstrate other dysfunctional behaviors that contribute to an unsuccessful return to community life; and

WHEREAS, numerous prisoners may benefit from a therapeutic environment within the prison system to specifically address literacy and education, evaluate job skills and train for today's new technology, and diagnose and treat substance abuse or other

dysfunctional areas of their life before returning to the community;  
and

WHEREAS, the entire State of Oklahoma, including every community and individual, has an investment in the correctional system and an obligation to promote the safety of the people of the State of Oklahoma through reduced recidivism; and

WHEREAS, with the limited resources available for the correctional system, the State of Oklahoma should be creative and innovative in seeking the cooperation of other governmental entities to fund and pool resources and expertise when implementing services and programs for the habilitation and rehabilitation of prisoners;  
and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Mental Health and Substances Abuse Services, the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education and other governmental agencies and institutions of this state or political subdivisions of this state may be able to procure federal funds or combine personnel and appropriated funds or other public resources through negotiated agreements to benefit the correctional system and this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Department of Corrections attempt to negotiate with the Department of Mental Health and Substances Abuse Services, the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education, and other governmental agencies and institutions of this state, or political subdivisions of this state, for a comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary and intergovernmental agreement which will not cost the State of Oklahoma any additional funds but rather reallocates, redistributes,

or procures federal funds or other public funds to provide habilitation and rehabilitation services to prisoners, including, but not limited to, substance abuse diagnosis, treatment and after care, psychological evaluation and counselling, psychiatric diagnosis and treatment, literacy proficiency and training, technical job skills proficiency and training, education proficiency, high school equivalent education and college education services and any other services deemed necessary by the Department of Corrections for the habilitation and rehabilitation of prisoners prior to release into the community.

THAT all governmental agencies and institutions are encouraged to donate, grant, combine, solicit and procure federal funds and other public funds and resources for the benefit of the State of Oklahoma in implementing a therapeutic environment within the Oklahoma Correctional System to deliver new services and programs for the habilitation and rehabilitation of prisoners.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Mental Health and Substances Abuse Services, the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education.

44-1-7389

KSM