SHORT TITLE: Prisons; requiring system to identify job skills of inmates. Effective date.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE BILL NO. 1328 By: Laughlin

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to prisons; amending 57 O.S. 1991, Sections 538 and 539, which relate to vocational-technical education policies and administrative actions; requiring system to identify job skills of inmates; directing the assignment of certain qualified inmates to perform internal projects and repairs in lieu of outside contractors; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 1991, Section 538, is amended to read as follows:

Section 538. A. The State Department of ~~Public Welfare, through its Vocational~~ Rehabilitation ~~Division,~~ Services and the State Board of ~~Vocational-Technical~~ Vocational Technical Education shall implement policies and programs consistent with available funds and applicable federal statutes~~, rules~~ and ~~regulations~~ rules, to provide appropriate education, rehabilitation and vocational-technical training for persons in custody of the Department of Corrections who are candidates for work release programs, parole or release. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that such programs will be available so that said education and training will reasonably be expected to be completed before parole, release or work release begins.

B. The Department of Corrections shall work cooperatively with the ~~Vocational~~ State Department of Rehabilitation ~~Division~~ Services and the State Board of ~~Vocational-Technical~~ Vocational Technical Education to provide suitable candidates to allow reasonable cost effectiveness in the operation of said education, rehabilitation and training programs. This shall be accomplished through development of a method for screening and classification of persons in all facilities operated by the Department of Corrections, such screening and classification to be done cooperatively with the above named agencies, and to be designed to identify existing job skills in addition to potential for vocational-technical skills. When an offender is identified as having any current vocational-technical skills, priority shall be given to allowing those offenders to perform work utilizing those skills.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 1991, Section 539, is amended to read as follows:

Section 539. The Director of the Department of Corrections will within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act:

1. Establish and implement a classification program that will insure the maximum utilization, by qualified inmates, of the vocational training facilities that exist within designated institutions~~.~~;

2. Establish a system of identifying the current vocational-technical job skills of inmates upon reception at the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center and any other place of reception;

3. Establish a system of assigning inmates with vocational-technical job skills in lieu of using outside contractors for internal projects or repairs; and

4. Establish a system of internal periodic audits that will encompass all items of equipment, supplies, materials, livestock and poultry, purchased or produced, within the Department of Corrections and its institutions. Audits shall also include all continuing and

special funds and special accounts. The State Auditor and Inspector shall conduct an annual audit of all such areas of accountability.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1998.

46-2-1856 NP