

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1053

By: Beutler of the House

and

Wilkerson of the Senate

An Act relating to prisons and reformatories; amending 57 O.S. 1991, Sections 563.1, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 290, O.S.L. 1998 and 563.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 1998 (57 O.S. Supp. 1998, Sections 563.1 and 563.2), which relate to private prison facilities; modifying scope of location restriction; modifying eligibility criteria for certain inmates housed by private prison 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 563.1, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 290, O.S.L. 1998 (57 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 563.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 563.1 The location of any prison facility which is not operated by the Department of Corrections, a county, or a city shall be subject to the nondiscriminatory zoning ordinances of the town or city in which located, and the location of such facility is specifically prohibited within one (1) mile of any public or private elementary or secondary school. Provided, that if any public or private elementary or secondary school shall be established within the prohibited distance from any such facility after such facility has been in use as a prison facility, this shall not be a bar to the continued use of the facility as a prison so long as it remains in continuous use as a prison. Provided further, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any prison facility established within the prohibited distance from a private elementary or secondary school prior to May 20, 1994 or within the prohibited distance from a public elementary or secondary school prior to July 1, 1987. Provided further, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any prison facility established within the prohibited distance which prior to July 1, 1999, was operated as a medium security residential facility for juveniles. The distance indicated in this section shall be measured from the nearest property line of the school to the nearest property line of the prison facility. Provided, that the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a correctional facility not operated by the Department of Corrections that is granted permission to operate within the areas restricted by this subsection by a majority vote of the following entities:

1. The district board of education of each school district with an affected school; and

2. The equivalent governing body of each affected private school.

Prior to the establishment of any prison facility which is not operated by the Department of Corrections, a private prison contractor shall obtain written authorization to establish the facility from the governing body of any municipality in which such a facility is to be located, or if the facility is not to be located within the incorporated limits of a municipality, from the board of county commissioners of the county in which the facility is to be located. Said authorization shall be submitted to the Board of Corrections before any contract between the Department of Corrections and the private prison contractor is awarded.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 1991, Section 563.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 149, O.S.L. 1998 (57 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 563.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 563.2 A. A private prison contractor may contract with the federal government or another state to provide for housing, care and control of minimum or medium security level inmates, as provided by subsection H of this section, who are in the custody of the United States or another state, who do not have histories of escape ~~or riot~~ from medium or maximum security level correctional facilities for adults, who do not have histories of rioting, and who are sentenced to terms of incarceration for conviction of a felony, other than a felony that would be a capital offense if committed in this state or a sex-related offense, or who are sentenced to federal or state facilities for conviction of a misdemeanor, other than a sex-related offense, within a facility owned or operated by the private prison contractor. Provided, incarceration for misdemeanors shall be allowed only pursuant to subsection D of this section. Such private prison contractor may perform other functions related to said responsibilities.

B. Any offense which would be a crime if committed within a state correctional institution of this state shall be a crime if committed in a facility owned or operated by a private prison contractor.

C. A private prison contractor shall not employ any personnel convicted of a felony if the person has been incarcerated in the private prison facility for which an application for employment is being considered; provided, a private prison contractor may employ personnel convicted of drug-related felonies who have been rehabilitated for programs for drug or other substance abuse rehabilitation for inmates of the facility.

Any personnel of a facility owned or operated by a private prison contractor, except any person convicted of a felony offense, shall be authorized to carry and use firearms while in the performance of their official duties only in the manner provided in this subsection and only after completing training approved or provided by the Department of Corrections. Such personnel shall only be authorized to use firearms for the following purposes:

1. To prevent escape from the facility or from custody while being transported to or from the facility. As used in this paragraph, "to prevent escape from the facility" shall mean to prevent an incarcerated individual from crossing the secure perimeter of the facility; or

2. To prevent an act which would cause death or serious bodily injury to any person.

The Department of Corrections is authorized to provide training to personnel of the private prison contractor, pursuant to contract. The Department of Corrections shall charge a reasonable fee for the training, not to exceed the cost of such training. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to confer peace officer status upon any employee of the private prison contractor or to authorize the use of firearms, except as provided in this subsection. If an inmate escapes from the facility, or in the event of any riot or other serious disturbance, personnel from the facility immediately shall inform the Department of Public Safety, the county sheriff and, if the facility is located within the boundaries of a municipality, the police department of the municipality. If fifty percent (50%) or more of the population of the facility are inmates from this state, the personnel from the facility immediately shall inform the Department of Corrections if there is any riot or other serious disturbance, whether or not involving any inmates from this state, or if an inmate from this state escapes. The Department of Corrections is directed to respond on behalf of inmates of this state. Any emergency response provided by any state or local law enforcement agency shall be at the sole expense of the private prison contractor/operator. Each responding agency shall submit a written invoice detailing costs incurred which shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt by the private prison contractor/operator.

D. A private prison contractor housing federal inmates or inmates of another state shall not accept:

1. Any inmate who would be incarcerated in the facility for conviction of a misdemeanor, unless such incarceration in the facility is consistent with American Correctional Association requirements relating to the incarceration of inmates convicted of more serious offenses; or

2. Any maximum security level inmate.

E. If an inmate is to be released or discharged from incarceration, is released or discharged by any court order, is to be placed on probation, is paroled, or if the federal government or sending state requests transfer or the return of the inmate, the private prison contractor immediately shall transfer or return the inmate to the sending state which has legal authority over the sentence or, in the case of federal inmates, to the closest federal prison or to the federal authority of the state in which federal custody over the inmate originated.

F. A private prison contractor housing federal inmates from jurisdictions other than Oklahoma, or inmates sentenced pursuant to the legal authority of another state, shall not allow any such inmate to leave the premises of the facility, except to comply with an order to appear in a court of competent jurisdiction, to receive

medical care not available at the facility, to work as provided in subsection G of this section, or to return or be transferred to another state as provided by the provisions of subsection E of this section.

G. A private prison contractor may allow minimum security inmate labor to be used in public works projects provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The public works project must be in and for the county where the private prison is located or a county adjacent to the county where the private prison is located, or in and for a municipality in the county where the private prison is located or an adjacent county;

2. The private prison contractor has developed security procedures which will ensure the safety of the public and the Department of Corrections has approved such procedures;

3. The public works project has been authorized by Department of Corrections and the county or municipal authorities where the public works project is located;

4. The private prison contractor has procured and has in force and effect a policy of liability insurance which will provide coverage in an amount determined by the Department of Corrections for any loss resulting from the acts or omissions of inmates participating in said project or employees of the private prison contractor and for any injuries occurring to said inmates or employees; and

5. The use of federal inmates for public works projects will be in strict compliance with the provisions of Section 4002 of Title 18 of the United States Code and any other applicable provisions of federal law.

H. A private prison contractor housing federal inmates or inmates of another state shall be responsible for the reimbursement of all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by this state or a political subdivision of this state for legal actions brought in this state by or on behalf of any federal inmate or inmate of another state while incarcerated in the facility, including court costs, sheriff's mileage fees, witness fees, district attorney expenses, expenses of the office of Attorney General, indigent or public defender fees and costs, judicial expenses, court reporter expenses and any other costs, fees, or expenses associated with the proceedings or actions.

I. As used in this section, unless federal custody status is specified, security level restrictions shall refer to the security levels applicable to inmates in institutions within the Department of Corrections, as determined by policy of the Department of Corrections, unless the Department of Corrections approves more restrictive levels of security as prescribed by the private prison contractor. Private prison contractors housing federal inmates or inmates of another state shall be bound by such security level classifications.

J. A private prison contractor shall not house inmates from this state with federal inmates or inmates from another state,

unless segregated or otherwise housed in such a manner as to satisfy the Director of the Department of Corrections.

K. The State of Oklahoma shall not assume jurisdiction or custody of any federal inmate or inmate from another state housed in a facility owned or operated by a private prison contractor. Such inmates from another state shall at all times be subject to the jurisdiction of that state and federal inmates shall at all times be subject to federal jurisdiction. This state shall not be liable for loss resulting from the acts of said inmates nor shall this state be liable for any injuries to said inmates.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

Passed the House of Representatives the 26th day of May, 1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 26th day of May, 1999.

President of the Senate