

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 740

By: Milacek

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to prisons; amending Section 66, Chapter 418, O.S.L. 1998 (57 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 509.6), which relates to special care for elderly or sick inmates; requiring all medical and surgical services to be contracted privately; authorizing the Department of Corrections to contract for medical services; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 66, Chapter 418, O.S.L. 1998 (57 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 509.6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 509.6 A. The Department of Corrections is authorized, pursuant to the Board of Corrections resolution on May 22, 1998, and subject to legislative appropriation, to establish a special correctional unit expansion at the Joseph Harp Correctional Center in Lexington, Oklahoma, designed solely for the imprisonment of elderly persons, physically disabled persons, persons in need of infirmary care, and persons in need of specialized care or treatment ~~as an outpatient in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan area~~ in the custody of the Department. The Department shall consider the unique needs of the elderly offender and the physically disabled offender when designing the unit or renovating an existing unit for this purpose and when implementing any program or service for such persons.

Only the following offenders shall be eligible for placement in the facility:

1. Persons age fifty-five (55) years or older who are deemed not suitable for placement in the general population of another facility;

2. Persons who are physically disabled upon reception into the custody of the Department, or who become physically disabled during the term of their incarceration within the custody of the Department, and whose disability requires the continuous use of a wheelchair or other special equipment, or whose disability requires special assistance, services or accommodations which another facility is not designed or equipped to meet;

3. Persons requiring an infirmary with twenty-four-hour nursing care; and

4. Persons having ~~appointments or other~~ special needs for medical services ~~which are provided at Griffin Memorial Hospital, Oklahoma Memorial Hospital or other medical facilities in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area and~~ that are coming from other medical facilities and returning to ~~other~~ Department correctional facilities.

B. Beginning January 1, 2000, all medical and surgical services for any person in the custody of the Department of Corrections shall be delivered by private medical providers. Such services shall be delivered pursuant to annual contracts between the Department and the private medical professionals. The Department is hereby authorized to contract for such services as provided by law.

SECTION 2. 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.

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