

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 61

By: Fisher and Hobson

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution authorizing Legislative Service Bureau to contract for study of the Oklahoma corrections system; authorizing expenditures to finance study; stating limit on expenditures; requiring use of faculty and staff of institutions within Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; authorizing employment of consultants; stating areas of study; and requiring report.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma has utilized private prison facilities for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, the costs and rates of incarceration of offenders continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, the departments of the Executive and Legislative branches need thorough and unbiased information upon which to make decisions related to criminal justice and corrections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

A. The Legislative Service Bureau is authorized and instructed to contract for an economic analysis and program review of the Oklahoma corrections system, including privately owned prison facilities by the State of Oklahoma, to be performed by a nonprofit organization recognized under 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3), that has the ability to coordinate and mobilize the resources of the state public and private research universities. The Bureau is authorized to expend a sum of up to Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) to finance the study. The study shall be conducted by the contracting organization, using faculty and staff of institutions within The

Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. Consultants not employed by an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education may be employed as the organization conducting the study deems necessary. The Office of State Finance, the Department of Corrections, the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, and other state agencies, including the courts, shall provide information upon request of the organization conducting the study.

B. The study shall include:

1. Comparative costs of private and public incarceration;
 2. Corrections system trends in selected states;
 3. Historical review of Oklahoma correctional costs, levels of incarceration, and recidivism rate;
 4. Private prison contract terms and contract oversight procedures;
 5. Public and private sector prison population characteristics;
 6. Comparison of rehabilitation and educational opportunities in private and public prisons;
 7. Comparison of preparation of inmates for release, including skills education, medical care, drug treatment and rehabilitation in private and public prisons;
 8. Potential liability of the State of Oklahoma for legal actions arising from the use of private prisons, including possible civil rights actions;
 9. Use and availability of prerelease transitional programs for inmates in public and private prisons;
 10. Availability, use, and effectiveness of community sentencing as an alternative to incarceration, including monetary costs and savings and rates of penetration further into criminal justice system;
 11. Role of drug abuse in behavior leading to incarceration;
- and

12. Recommendations for programmatic changes and cost-saving measures.

The contracting organization shall present a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate by January 1, 2003, and shall present a final report by February 15, 2003.

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