

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED  
SENATE BILL NO. 706

By: Pruitt of the Senate

and

Smith (Hopper) of the  
House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to corrections; stating legislative findings; stating legislative intent that Department of Corrections and private prisons make faith-based programs available in correctional facilities; stating requirements for faith-based programs; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 614 of Title 57, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Legislature finds and declares that faith-based programs offered in state and private correctional institutions and facilities have the potential to facilitate inmate institutional adjustment, to help inmates assume personal responsibility, and to reduce recidivism. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Corrections and private vendors operating private correctional facilities work towards ensuring the availability and development of such programs at the correctional institutions and facilities of this state and shall continuously:

1. Measure recidivism rates for all inmates participating in faith-based or religious programs at the correctional institution or facility;

2. Work with volunteers ministering to inmates from various faith-based institutions in this state to improve the quality of faith-based programs at the correctional institution or facility;

3. Continue to develop community linkages with churches, synagogues, mosques, and other faith-based institutions to assist in the release of participants into the community; and

4. Monitor faith-based programs operating in the correctional institution or facility. Such organizations shall provide any and all data required at their expense to the Department or any other correctional institution.

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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