

3 Senate Bill No. 1823
4 As Amended

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1823 - By: LAWLER of the Senate and TERRILL of the
6 House.

7 [corrections - faith-based programs - pilot program -
8 effective date -
9 emergency]

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

11 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 346, O.S.L.
12 2003 (57 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 614), is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 Section 614. A. The Legislature finds and declares that faith-
15 based programs offered in state and private correctional
16 institutions and facilities have the potential to facilitate inmate
17 institutional adjustment, to help inmates assume personal
18 responsibility, and to reduce recidivism. It is the intent of the
19 Legislature that the Department of Corrections and private vendors
20 operating private correctional facilities work towards ensuring the
21 availability and development of such programs at the correctional
22 institutions and facilities of this state and shall continuously:

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

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

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

7 4. Monitor faith-based programs operating in the correctional
8 institution or facility.

9 B. Beginning July 1, 2006, the Department of Corrections shall
10 select and begin implementation of one or more pilot faith-based
11 programs in the correctional institutions operated by the
12 Department. At least one shall be for female inmates and at least
13 one shall be for male inmates. The Department shall promulgate
14 rules that accommodate the operational needs of the faith-based
15 program, including but not limited to, access to inmates by
16 volunteers and program personnel and enhanced opportunities for
17 inmates to participate in a pro-social environment where values and
18 responsibilities are appropriately rewarded and where there exists a
19 recognizable change from current prison culture and
20 institutionalization without actual release of any inmate or
21 compromise to the safety or security of any person or property.
22 Every person participating in faith-based programs in correctional
23 institutions shall be required to complete the Department's

1 volunteer training program in addition to being trained to develop
2 the faith-based program.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-15-06 - DO
9 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.