

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1867

By: Corn

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to corrections; amending 57 O.S. 2001, Sections 502, as last amended by Section 44, Chapter 3, O.S.L. 2003 and 563.2 as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 476, O.S.L. 2005 (57 O.S. Supp. 2005, Sections 502 and 563.2), which relate to definitions and private prison contractors; changing certain definition; authorizing maximum security level inmates in private prisons; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2001, Section 502, as last amended by Section 44, Chapter 3, O.S.L. 2003 (57 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 502), is amended to read as follows:

Section 502. As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Board" means the State Board of Corrections;
2. "Department" means the Department of Corrections of this state;
3. "Institutions" means the Oklahoma State Penitentiary located at McAlester, Oklahoma; the Oklahoma State Reformatory located at Granite, Oklahoma; the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center located at Lexington, Oklahoma; the Joseph Harp Correctional Center located at Lexington, Oklahoma; the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center located at McAlester, Oklahoma; the Howard C. McLeod Correctional Center located at Farris, Oklahoma; the Mack H. Alford Correctional Center located at Stringtown, Oklahoma; the Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center located at Hodgen, Oklahoma; the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center located at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; the

R.B. "Dick" Conner Correctional Center located at Hominy, Oklahoma; the James Crabtree Correctional Center located at Helena, Oklahoma; the Jess Dunn Correctional Center located at Taft, Oklahoma; the John Lilley Correctional Center located at Boley, Oklahoma; the William S. Key Correctional Center located at Fort Supply, Oklahoma; the Dr. Eddie Walter Warrior Correctional Center located at Taft, Oklahoma; the Northeast Oklahoma Correctional Center located at Vinita, Oklahoma; the Clara Waters and Kate Barnard Community Corrections Centers located at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; the Community Corrections Centers located at Lawton, Enid, and Muskogee; the Charles E. "Bill" Johnson Correctional Center, located east of Alva, Oklahoma; and other facilities under the jurisdiction and control of the Department of Corrections or hereafter established by the Department of Corrections;

4. "Director" means the Director of the Department of Corrections;

5. "Halfway house" means a private facility for the placement of inmates in a community setting for the purpose of reintegrating into the community inmates who are nearing their release dates. The term shall not include private prisons;

6. "Intermediate sanctions facility" means a community corrections center operated by the Department of Corrections or a private facility or public trust operating pursuant to contract with the Department of Corrections which provides for the housing and programmatic services of offenders such as probation or parole violators or community sentenced offenders placed in the facility for disciplinary sanctions, work release offenders, offenders who need intensive programmatic services, or offenders who have demonstrated positive adjustment while in an institutional setting who need additional programmatic services to enhance their reentry into society upon release from a prison term; and

7. "Private prison contractor" means:

- a. a nongovernmental entity or public trust which, pursuant to a contract with the Department of Corrections, operates an institution within the Department other than a halfway house or intermediate sanctions facility, or provides for the housing, care, and control of inmates and performs other functions related to these responsibilities within a minimum ~~or~~, medium, or maximum security level facility not owned by the Department but operated by the contractor, or
- b. a nongovernmental entity or public trust which, pursuant to a contract with the United States or another state, provides for the housing, care, and control of minimum or medium security inmates in the custody of the United States or another state, and performs other functions related to these responsibilities other than a halfway house or intermediate sanctions facility within a facility owned or operated by the contractor.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2001, Section 563.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 476, O.S.L. 2005 (57 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 563.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 563.2 A. Except as provided for in subsection B of this section, a private prison contractor may contract with the federal government or another state to provide for housing, care and control of minimum ~~or~~, medium, or maximum security level inmates, as provided in this section, who are in the custody of the United States or another state, who do not have histories of escape 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, or who are under arrest or detained for federal felony or misdemeanor violations, or detained for a violation of immigration laws, within a facility owned or operated by the private prison contractor. Provided, incarceration for misdemeanors shall be allowed only pursuant to subsection E of this section. Such private prison contractor may perform other functions related to such responsibilities.

B. A private prison contractor operating a facility on January 1, 2004, at twenty-five percent (25%) or less capacity may contract with the federal government or another state to provide for housing, care and control of minimum ~~or~~, medium, or maximum security level inmates provided the facility would be allowed to house the same type of inmates if contracting with this state.

C. 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.

D. 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 by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training. The Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training may charge a reasonable fee

for its cost of evaluating firearms training for private prison personnel. Private prison 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" means 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. All private prisons operating in this state shall prepare a written emergency plan and mutual aid agreement between the private prison facility and state and local law enforcement agencies, including the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Safety. 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 Corrections, 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. The Department of Corrections shall designate facilities operated by the Department to provide support in the event of a riot, escape or other serious emergency. Personnel from the facility shall inform the Department of Corrections, pursuant to Department policy, if there is any incident. The Department of Corrections is directed to respond on

behalf of public safety of this state. The private prison contractor shall provide the Department of Corrections access to the facility and secure facility space to establish a command post, including provisions for telephone and fax access. 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.

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

~~1. Any~~ 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.~~

F. 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.

G. 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 H of this section, or to return or be transferred to another state as provided by the provisions of subsection F of this section.

H. 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 the 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 such project or employees of the private prison contractor and for any injuries occurring to the 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.

I. 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 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.

J. 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.

K. 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.

L. 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 such inmates nor shall this state be liable for any injuries to the inmates.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.