

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2101

6 By: Cargill

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to prisons and reformatories;
9 providing short title; creating Reentry Policy
10 Council; providing for appointment of members;
11 providing duties; creating the Transformational
12 Justice Interagency Task Force; providing for
13 membership; providing for appointment of chair and
14 vice-chair; providing for travel reimbursement;
15 stating duties; creating the Reintegration of Inmates
16 Revolving Fund; stating purpose of fund; creating the
17 Transformational Justice Revolving Fund; stating
18 purpose of fund; providing for the development of
19 rules and policies; providing for codification;
20 providing for noncodification; and providing an
21 effective date.

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

23 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
24 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited
as the "Transformational Justice Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 521.1 of Title 57, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. Upon the effective date of this act, a Reentry Policy
2 Council shall be created for the purpose of providing oversight of
3 the reentry policies and programs operated by the Department of
4 Corrections. The Council shall consist of ten (10) members and
5 shall be appointed as follows:

6 1. Three members shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

- 7 a. one member shall be a law enforcement officer,
- 8 b. one member shall be a corrections official, and
- 9 c. one member shall be a crime victim;

10 2. Four members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
11 Oklahoma House of Representatives as follows:

- 12 a. one member shall be a member of the Oklahoma House of
13 Representatives,
- 14 b. one member shall be a representative of a faith-based
15 organization involved with the reintegration of
16 inmates,
- 17 c. one member shall be a district attorney, or a
18 designee, and
- 19 d. one member shall be a mental health and substance
20 abuse official; and

21 3. Three members shall be appointed by the President Pro
22 Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate as follows:

- 23 a. one member shall be a member of the Oklahoma State
24 Senate,

1 b. one member shall be a person who has been previously
2 convicted of a criminal offense in Oklahoma, and

3 c. one member shall be a representative from a nonprofit
4 entity involved with the reintegration of inmates.

5 B. The Council shall:

6 1. Review corrections policies, programs and procedures to
7 ensure that the primary purpose of each is public safety during
8 imprisonment and after release;

9 2. Identify gaps in reentry programs and services as well as
10 overlapping efforts, and recommend changes to address those issues;

11 3. Review policies to ensure that corrections facilities
12 recruit and welcome volunteers;

13 4. Review the licensing procedures within this state to
14 eliminate barriers to employment that are unrelated to the conduct
15 underlying the conviction; and

16 5. Report annually to the Legislature and the Governor on the
17 progress of the reentry initiative, including the impact on
18 recidivism, effectiveness of agency coordination and communications,
19 and the implementation of reentry plans and use of funding.

20 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 521.2 of Title 57, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2010, the
24 "Transformational Justice Interagency Task Force". The

1 Transformational Justice Interagency Task Force shall be composed of
2 the following members:

3 1. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or a
4 designee;

5 2. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or
6 a designee;

7 3. The Attorney General, or a designee;

8 4. The Commissioner of the State Department of Health, or a
9 designee;

10 5. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or a
11 designee;

12 6. The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and
13 Substance Abuse Services, or a designee;

14 7. The Presiding Judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal
15 Appeals, or a designee;

16 8. The Executive Coordinator of the District Attorneys Council,
17 or a designee;

18 9. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense
19 System, or a designee;

20 10. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
21 appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;
22 and

23 11. Two members of the Oklahoma State Senate appointed by the
24 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

1 B. The chair shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma
2 House of Representatives on or before December 1, 2007. The vice-
3 chair shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
4 Oklahoma State Senate on or before December 1, 2007. The chair
5 shall convene the first meeting of the Task Force on or before
6 January 1, 2008. The members of the Task Force shall elect any
7 other officers during the first meeting and upon a vacancy in any
8 office. The Task Force shall meet as often as necessary. Task
9 Force members employed by the state shall be reimbursed for travel
10 expenses related to their service on the Task Force by their
11 respective agencies pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel
12 Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be
13 reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the
14 performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title
15 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Remaining Task Force members shall be
16 reimbursed travel expenses related to their service on the Task
17 Force by their appointing authorities pursuant to the provisions of
18 the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

19 C. The Transformational Justice Interagency Task Force shall:

20 1. Establish goals for reducing the rate of recidivism among
21 inmates;

22 2. Coordinate the reentry programs of the state to help inmates
23 find jobs, housing, substance abuse treatment, medical care, and
24 mental health services;

- 1 3. Ensure that those who supervise offenders in prison are
2 linked to those that will supervise them after release;
- 3 4. Identify methods to improve collaboration and coordination
4 of reentry programs and services, including cross-training,
5 management information systems that are accessible to partner
6 agencies, screening procedures to assess and refer efficiently
7 across federal, state and local boundaries, and policies and
8 procedures that measure offender reentry management with well-
9 defined performance-based outcomes;
- 10 5. Seek partnerships with faith-based and community groups to
11 provide programs and services;
- 12 6. Identify effective evidence-based practices in reentry
13 support, treatment and intervention programs;
- 14 7. Encourage expansion of family-based treatment centers that
15 offer family-based comprehensive treatment services for parents and
16 their children as a complete family unit;
- 17 8. Develop and establish a parenting skills program to be
18 implemented by the Department of Corrections for inmates who are
19 within one (1) year of being released from incarceration. The
20 parenting skills program shall provide education and training to
21 develop and enhance inmate parenting skills with an emphasis on
22 providing techniques to teach the inmate how to raise a healthier
23 child who will be less at risk of engaging in future criminal
24 activities;

1 9. Establish collaboration among corrections and community
2 corrections, technical schools, community colleges, and the
3 workforce development and employment service sectors to:

4 a. promote, where appropriate, the employment of people
5 released from prison and jail, through federal efforts
6 such as educating employers about existing financial
7 incentives and facilitate the creation of job
8 opportunities, including transitional jobs, for this
9 population that will benefit communities,

10 b. connect inmates to employment, including supportive
11 employment and employment services, before their
12 release to the community, and

13 c. address barriers to employment;

14 10. Include victims in the reentry process and facilitate
15 victim-offender dialogue when the victim is willing; and

16 11. Communicate regularly with local agencies and faith-based
17 and community groups.

18 D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
19 fund for the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to be designated the
20 "Reintegration of Inmates Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
21 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
22 consist of monies received from appropriated funds to be used for
23 grants to volunteer organizations including, but not limited to,
24 faith-based organizations which provide health, educational or

1 vocational training and programs that assist the reintegration
2 efforts of the Reentry Policy Council. All monies accruing to the
3 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
4 expended by the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. Expenditures
5 from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
6 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
7 Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

8 E. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
9 fund for the Department of Corrections to be designated the
10 "Transformational Justice Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
11 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
12 consist of monies received from appropriated funds to be used for
13 bonuses to corrections officials who demonstrate improvement in
14 recidivism rates of inmates that were previously under the custody
15 of the Department of Corrections. All monies accruing to the credit
16 of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended
17 by the Department of Corrections. Expenditures from the fund shall
18 be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
19 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for
20 approval and payment.

21 F. The Department of Corrections shall develop rules and
22 policies which ensure that recidivism rates are included in the
23 performance reviews, promotions and compensation adjustments of
24 correctional officers.

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SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2007.

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