

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 SENATE BILL 1958

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to corrections; amending Section 3,
8 Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2007 (57 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section
9 521.2), which relates to Transformational Justice
10 Act; clarifying language; including other staff and
11 personnel in linking certain services upon release;
and providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 274, O.S.L.
14 2007 (57 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 521.2), is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 Section 521.2 A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2010,
17 the "Transformational Justice Interagency Task Force". The
18 Transformational Justice Interagency Task Force shall be composed of
19 the following members:

- 20 1. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or a
21 designee;
- 22 2. The Executive Director of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, or
23 a designee;
- 24 3. The Attorney General, or a designee;

1 4. The Commissioner of the State Department of Health, or a
2 designee;

3 5. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or a
4 designee;

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

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

9 8. The Executive Coordinator of the District Attorneys Council,
10 or a designee;

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

13 10. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
14 appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;
15 and

16 11. Two members of the Oklahoma State Senate appointed by the
17 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

18 B. The chair shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma
19 House of Representatives on or before December 1, 2007. The vice-
20 chair shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
21 Oklahoma State Senate on or before December 1, 2007. The chair
22 shall convene the first meeting of the Task Force on or before
23 January 1, 2008. The members of the Task Force shall elect any
24 other officers during the first meeting and upon a vacancy in any

1 office. The Task Force shall meet as often as necessary. Task
2 Force members employed by the state shall be reimbursed for travel
3 expenses related to their service on the Task Force by their
4 respective agencies pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel
5 Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be
6 reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the
7 performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title
8 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Remaining Task Force members shall be
9 reimbursed travel expenses related to their service on the Task
10 Force by their appointing authorities pursuant to the provisions of
11 the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

12 C. The Transformational Justice Interagency Task Force shall:

13 1. Establish goals for reducing the rate of recidivism among
14 inmates;

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

18 3. Ensure that ~~these~~ correctional officers and other staff who
19 supervise offenders in prison are linked to ~~these~~ the personnel and
20 staff that will supervise ~~them~~ the person after release;

21 4. Identify methods to improve collaboration and coordination
22 of reentry programs and services, including cross-training,
23 management information systems that are accessible to partner
24 agencies, screening procedures to assess and refer efficiently

1 across federal, state and local boundaries, and policies and
2 procedures that measure offender reentry management with well-
3 defined performance-based outcomes;

4 5. Seek partnerships with faith-based and community groups to
5 provide programs and services;

6 6. Identify effective evidence-based practices in reentry
7 support, treatment and intervention programs;

8 7. Encourage expansion of family-based treatment centers that
9 offer family-based comprehensive treatment services for parents and
10 their children as a complete family unit;

11 8. Develop and establish a parenting skills program to be
12 implemented by the Department of Corrections for inmates who are
13 within one (1) year of being released from incarceration. The
14 parenting skills program shall provide education and training to
15 develop and enhance inmate parenting skills with an emphasis on
16 providing techniques to teach the inmate how to raise a healthier
17 child who will be less at risk of engaging in future criminal
18 activities;

19 9. Establish collaboration among corrections and community
20 corrections, technical schools, community colleges, and the
21 workforce development and employment service sectors to:

22 a. promote, where appropriate, the employment of people
23 released from prison and jail, through federal efforts
24 such as educating employers about existing financial

1 incentives and facilitate the creation of job
2 opportunities, including transitional jobs, for this
3 population that will benefit communities,

4 b. connect inmates to employment, including supportive
5 employment and employment services, before their
6 release to the community, and

7 c. address barriers to employment;

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

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

12 D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
13 fund for the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to be designated the
14 "Reintegration of Inmates Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
15 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
16 consist of monies received from appropriated funds to be used for
17 grants to volunteer organizations including, but not limited to,
18 faith-based organizations which provide health, educational or
19 vocational training and programs that assist the reintegration
20 efforts of the Reentry Policy Council. All monies accruing to the
21 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
22 expended by the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. Expenditures
23 from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State

1 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
2 Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

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

16 F. The Department of Corrections shall develop rules and
17 policies which ensure that recidivism rates are included in the
18 performance reviews, promotions and compensation adjustments of
19 correctional officers.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2008.

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