

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1959

By: Johnson (Constance)

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to corrections; creating a task force
8 to study incarcerated mentally ill women; providing
9 term of task force study; stating purpose of study;
10 directing Director of Department of Rehabilitative
11 Services as lead agency; providing staff for task
12 force study; providing for membership and travel
13 reimbursement; directing certain authorities to
14 appoint legislative members; authorizing officers and
15 subcommittees; stating membership term; requiring
16 certain report; directing distribution; providing for
17 noncodification; providing an effective date; and
18 declaring an emergency.

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

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

22 A. There is hereby created until January 1, 2009, a task force
23 to study the affects of incarceration on women who are mentally ill
24 and have been incarcerated. The task force shall further study the
roles and responsibilities of the Department of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Rehabilitative Services,
and the Department of Corrections in providing treatment,
rehabilitative services, support services during the reintegration

1 process of such previously incarcerated women, and the opportunities
2 made available for employment, education, treatment and support
3 service to such mentally ill women following release from prison.
4 In addition, the task force shall study the pre and post
5 incarceration quality of life, including, but not limited to, the
6 ability of such women to provide childcare and meet family
7 responsibilities, maintain or obtain employment, meet financial
8 responsibilities, maintain or obtain treatment or medicines upon
9 release from prison, and the recidivism rates for such women
10 following release from incarceration.

11 B. The Department of Rehabilitative Services shall be the lead
12 agency in implementing and conducting the task force study. The
13 Senate staff shall provide staff assistance for meetings and
14 reports, and in addition, the participating agencies shall provide
15 staff assistance in administering the responsibilities of the task
16 force.

17 C. There shall be seven (7) members on the task force.
18 Memberships of the task force shall be: the Director of the
19 Department of Rehabilitative Services, or designee; the Commissioner
20 of the Department of Mental Health and Substances Abuse Services, or
21 designee; the Director of the Department of Corrections, or
22 designee; and four members of the Legislature who shall be appointed
23 as follows:

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1 1. Two members representing the Senate, one each to be
2 appointed by the Co-Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

3 2. Two members representing the House of Representatives to be
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5 D. The nonlegislative members of the task force shall receive
6 travel reimbursement pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act
7 and the Legislative members shall receive reimbursement by the
8 appointing authority.

9 E. The Director of the Department of Rehabilitative Services
10 shall convene the first meeting on or before September 1, 2008. The
11 membership may appoint other officers and form subcommittees as
12 deemed necessary for the work of the task force. All appointed
13 members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

14 F. At the conclusion of the study, the task force shall prepare
15 a final report to be distributed to the Co-Presidents Pro Tempore of
16 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
17 Director of the Department of Corrections, the Commissioner of the
18 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the
19 Director of the Department of Rehabilitative Services at the
20 conclusion of the task force study.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

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

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