

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

SENATE BILL 780

By: Pruitt

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to corrections; requiring the Department of Corrections to utilize faith-based programs; prohibiting discrimination of certain programs; defining term; establishing mission statement for the Department of Corrections; creating the position of Deputy Director, Administrative Chaplain; stating responsibilities and duties; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 115 of Title 57, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Department of Corrections shall insure in the recommendation and implementation of any services, agreements or informal adjustments pursuant to this section that it will actively consider and proffer utilization of faith-based programs and shall not discriminate against such programs. For purposes of this section, a "faith-based program" means, but not be limited to, a program which incorporates as part of its provision of counseling, advising, informing and disseminating ecclesiastical, spiritual and religious content in the furtherance of providing assistance concerning re-entry inclusive of job training, character development, mentoring and accountability, family relationships, and, in general, items that positively impact recidivism.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 505.1 of Title 57, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The mission of the Department of Corrections is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crimes.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 508.1a of Title 57, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The position of Deputy Director, Administrative Chaplain, is created with the responsibility to oversee all the religious programs of all prison facilities within the Department of Corrections. The Administrative Chaplain shall assist all facilities that work under contractual agreements by directing work of any volunteers associated with the contracting parties, and shall serve as a reentry specialist directing the reentry phase of an inmate into society.

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

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