

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 454</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Sen. Newhouse</b>
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**Bill Analysis**

SB 454 creates the Oklahoma Veterans' Treatment Act. The measure creates a program, named the Oklahoma Veterans' Treatment Program, that utilizes specially trained court personnel to expedite the case and explore alternatives to incarceration for veterans or service members charged with criminal offenses and are in need of treatment for mental health related issues. The program may be created by any municipal or district court and can request the assistance of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or other community-based programs and agencies.

Eligibility for the program, outlined by the measure, does not include veterans who completed the program within the last three years or those convicted of a violent crime listed in Section 13.1 of Title 21 within the last ten years. The district attorney's office is required by the measure to provide staff that will determine eligibility for the program and the offender must waive their right to a speedy trial and preliminary hearing. Upon completion of the program, charges will be dismissed in certain cases outlined by the measure. If it is determined that a participant in the program is not adhering to the program's conditions, then their participation may be terminated.

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