

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4395

By: Pittman

8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to prisoner reentry; creating the
10 Oklahoma Prisoner Reentry Pilot Program for certain
inmates; stating purpose of pilot program; requiring
11 initiation of pilot program in county with certain
population; requiring support for pilot program to be
12 provided by employees of the Department of
Corrections; specifying eligibility requirement;
13 stating duties of support personnel; providing for
individualized reentry plans; itemizing list of
14 potential services available to inmates; authorizing
the Department to enter into public-private
15 partnerships; authorizing the acceptance of funds
from philanthropic organizations and federal grants;
16 requiring an assessment of the pilot program;
directing the Department to annually submit
17 assessment report to the Governor and Legislature;
directing the Department to promulgate policies;
18 providing for codification; and providing an
effective date.

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

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 510.8d of Title 57, unless there
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. The State Department of Corrections shall establish the
2 Oklahoma Prisoner Reentry Pilot Program for inmates under the
3 jurisdiction of the Department who have been sentenced to a term of
4 imprisonment and are likely to benefit from case management reentry
5 strategies designed for the specific needs of inmates who are
6 transitioning from prison into the community. The purpose of the
7 pilot program shall be to implement evidence-based practices and
8 strategies that promote improved public safety outcomes for inmates
9 reentering society after serving a term of incarceration and while
10 released on parole.

11 B. The pilot program shall be initiated in a county that has a
12 population in excess of five hundred thousand (500,000) according to
13 the latest Federal Decennial Census. The pilot program shall be
14 supported by employees of the Department of Corrections focusing
15 primarily on case management services for eligible inmates selected
16 for the pilot program. Any inmate with a medium or high risk of
17 felony arrest shall be eligible for participation in the pilot
18 program.

19 C. Employees of the Department shall assist inmates on parole
20 who are assigned to the pilot program in managing basic needs,
21 including housing, job training and placement, medical and mental
22 health care and any additional programming or responsibilities
23 attendant to the terms of the reentry requirements of the inmates.
24 Employees of the Department shall also work closely with the inmates

1 to prepare, monitor, revise, and fulfill individualized inmate
2 reentry plans consistent with this section during the term of the
3 pilot program.

4 D. Individualized inmate reentry plans shall focus on
5 connecting inmates to services for which the inmate is eligible
6 under existing federal, state, and local laws.

7 E. Case management services shall be prioritized for inmates
8 identified as potentially benefiting from assistance with the
9 following:

10 1. Food, including the immediate need and long-term planning
11 for obtaining food;

12 2. Clothing, including the immediate need to obtain appropriate
13 clothing;

14 3. Shelter, including the immediate need to obtain housing;

15 4. Benefits including, but not limited to, general assistance,
16 benefits administered by the federal Social Security Administration,
17 Oklahoma Medicaid, and veterans benefits;

18 5. Health services, including accessing community mental
19 health, medical, and dental treatment;

20 6. Substance abuse services, including assisting inmates with
21 obtaining community substance abuse treatment or related 12-step
22 program information and locations;

1 7. Income, including developing and implementing a feasible
2 plan to obtain income and employment reflecting the highest level of
3 work appropriate for the abilities and experience of the inmate;

4 8. Identification cards, including assisting reentering inmates
5 with obtaining driver licenses or state identification cards;

6 9. Life skills, including assisting with the development of
7 skills concerning money management, interviewing for jobs, resume
8 writing, and activities of daily living;

9 10. Activities, including working with reentering inmates in
10 choosing and engaging in suitable and productive activities;

11 11. Support systems, including working with reentering inmates
12 on developing a support system which may consist of prosocial
13 friends, family, and community groups and activities such as
14 religious activities, recovery groups, and other social events;

15 12. Academic and vocational programs, including assisting
16 reentering inmates in developing and implementing a realistic plan
17 to achieve an academic education, vocational training, or both;

18 13. Discharge planning, including developing postparole plans
19 to sustain the achievements and goals of the reentering inmate to
20 ensure long-term community success; and

21 14. Transitional support services, including transportation
22 services, twenty-four-hour on-call support and conflict resolution
23 support.

1 F. The Department shall be authorized to enter into public-
2 private partnerships to assist in providing higher education
3 programs and reentry services for inmates and funding said programs
4 and services for the pilot program.

5 G. The Department shall be authorized to accept funding for the
6 pilot program from philanthropic organizations or federal grants.

7 H. The Department shall contract for an evaluation of the pilot
8 program that will assess its effectiveness in reducing recidivism
9 among offenders transitioning from prison into the community.

10 I. The Department shall submit a report of the findings from
11 its evaluation of the pilot program to the Legislature and the
12 Governor annually for as long as the program is funded.

13 J. The State Department of Corrections is hereby authorized to
14 promulgate policies necessary to implement the provisions of this
15 section.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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