

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2517

By: Pittman of the House

3 and

4 Rader of the Senate
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6

7 [prisoner reentry - Oklahoma Prison Reentry Pilot
8 Program - Department of Corrections - eligibility
9 requirements - support personnel - individualized
10 reentry plans - public-private partnerships -
11 assessment report - codification - effective date]
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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

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

19 A. The State Department of Corrections shall establish the
20 Oklahoma Prisoner Reentry Pilot Program, as funds become available,
21 for inmates under the jurisdiction of the Department who have been
22 sentenced to a term of imprisonment and who are likely to benefit
23 from case management reentry strategies designed for the specific
24 needs of inmates transitioning from prison into the community. The

1 purpose of the pilot program shall be to implement evidence-based
2 practices and strategies that promote improved public safety
3 outcomes for inmates reentering society after serving a term of
4 incarceration and while released on parole.

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

13 C. Employees of the Department shall assist inmates on parole
14 who are assigned to the pilot program in managing basic needs,
15 including housing, job training and placement, medical and mental
16 health care and any additional programming or responsibilities
17 attendant to the terms of the reentry requirements of the inmate.
18 Employees of the Department shall also work closely with the inmates
19 to prepare, monitor, revise, and fulfill individualized inmate
20 reentry plans consistent with this section during the term of the
21 pilot program.

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

1 E. Case management services shall be prioritized for inmates
2 identified as potentially benefiting from assistance with the
3 following:

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

6 2. Clothing, including the immediate need to obtain appropriate
7 clothing;

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

9 4. Benefits including, but not limited to, general assistance,
10 benefits administered by the federal Social Security Administration,
11 state Medicaid program, and veterans benefits;

12 5. Health services, including accessing community mental
13 health, medical, and dental treatment;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 13. Discharge planning, including developing post-parole plans
11 to sustain the achievements and goals of the reentering inmate to
12 ensure long-term community success; and

13 14. Transitional support services, including transportation
14 services, twenty-four-hour on-call support and conflict resolution
15 support.

16 F. The Department shall be authorized to enter into public-
17 private partnerships to assist in providing higher education
18 programs and reentry services for inmates and funding said programs
19 and services for the pilot program.

20 G. The Department shall be authorized to accept funding for the
21 pilot program from philanthropic organizations and federal grants.

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

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

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

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

Passed the House of Representatives the 23rd day of March, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the Senate