

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4   HOUSE BILL 2517

                                  By: Pittman

7                                   AS INTRODUCED

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

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

21           SECTION 1.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
22           in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 510.8d of Title 57, unless there  
23           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, as funds become available,  
3 for inmates under the jurisdiction of the Department who have been  
4 sentenced to a term of imprisonment and who are likely to benefit  
5 from case management reentry strategies designed for the specific  
6 needs of inmates transitioning from prison into the community. The  
7 purpose of the pilot program shall be to implement evidence-based  
8 practices and strategies that promote improved public safety  
9 outcomes for inmates reentering society after serving a term of  
10 incarceration and while 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 inmate.  
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 post parole 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, 2023.

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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS,  
19 dated 03/01/2023 - DO PASS.  
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