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April 13, 2023

**AS AMENDED**

ENGROSSED HOUSE

BILL NO. 2517

By: Pittman of the House

and

Rader of the Senate

[ prisoner reentry - Oklahoma Prison Reentry Pilot Program - Department of Corrections - eligibility requirements - support personnel - individualized reentry plans - public-private partnerships - assessment report - codification - effective date ]

~~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 510.8d of Title 57, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Department of Corrections shall establish the Oklahoma Prisoner Reentry Pilot Program, as funds become available, for inmates under the jurisdiction of the Department who have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment and who are likely to benefit from case management reentry strategies designed for the specific needs of inmates transitioning from prison into the community. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to implement evidence-based practices and strategies that promote improved public safety

1 outcomes for inmates reentering society after serving a term of  
2 incarceration and while released on parole.

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

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

20 D. Individualized inmate reentry plans shall focus on  
21 connecting inmates to services for which the inmate is eligible  
22 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.

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

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

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

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY  
9 April 13, 2023 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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