

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 545</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>1462</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Sen. Pugh</b>
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**Bill Analysis**

SB 545 creates the Oklahoma Veterans' Treatment Act. The measure authorizes any municipal or district court in the state to establish a Veterans' Treatment Program. The jurisdiction may request assistance from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or other community-based programs and agencies to assist in the development and operations of a Veterans' Treatment Program. Funding shall be provided by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services through alternative courts, substance abuse treatment, or mental health treatment, the Department of Veterans Affairs, grants or any other private or public monies.

The Program shall not cover any offender charged with or convicted of any offense listed in Section 13.1 of Title 21 as well as any person who completed the Program within the last 3 years. The district attorney shall also approve or disapprove entry into the Program. Eligibility shall be determined by the Veterans' Treatment Program team or coordinator. Entry into the Program shall result in the entrant waiving his or her right to a speedy trial and preliminary hearing. The defendant shall sign an agreement upon entering the Program and shall agree to all terms and conditions of the Program as outlined in the measure. Upon completing the Program, charges against the defendant shall be dismissed in the case of the first felony offense. If the offender had a prior felony conviction, the disposition shall be as specified in the written plea agreement. Cases may be transferred between counties. In no case shall a defendant's participation in the Program exceed 36 months. The court may order Service Oklahoma to suspend any license revocation if it determines that no other means of transportation for the offender is available.

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