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February 10, 2026

**AS AMENDED**

SENATE BILL NO. 1224

By: Jech

An Act relating to pardons and paroles; amending 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.2, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 198, O.S.L. 2022 (57 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 332.2), which relates to pardon and parole procedures; authorizing electronic notification to victims and victim representatives; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.2, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 198, O.S.L. 2022 (57 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 332.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 332.2. A. The Pardon and Parole Board, which shall meet only on the call of the ~~Chair~~ chair, is authorized, if and when an application made to the Governor for a reprieve, commutation, parole, pardon, or other act of clemency is certified thereto by the Governor, to examine into the merits of ~~said~~ the application and make recommendations to the Governor in relation thereto, ~~said~~ such recommendation being advisory to the Governor and not binding thereon.

B. Any consideration for commutation shall be made only after application is made to the Pardon and Parole Board pursuant to the procedures set forth in this section. The Pardon and Parole Board

1 shall provide a copy of the application to the district attorney,  
2 the victim or representative of the victim, and the Office of the  
3 Attorney General within ten (10) business days of receipt of such  
4 application.

5 C. An application for commutation, other than those provided  
6 for in subsection F of this section, must be sent to the trial  
7 officials, who shall have twenty (20) business days to provide a  
8 written recommendation or protest prior to consideration of the  
9 application. Trial officials shall include:

10 1. The current elected judge of the court where the conviction  
11 was had;

12 2. The current elected district attorney of the jurisdiction  
13 where the conviction was had; or

14 3. The chief or head administrative officer of the arresting  
15 law enforcement agency.

16 D. In cases resolved prior to the tenure of the present  
17 officeholders, the recommendation or protest of persons holding such  
18 offices at the time of conviction may also be considered by the  
19 Board.

20 E. The recommendation for commutation of a sentence by a trial  
21 official may include the following:

22 1. A statement that the penalty now appears to be excessive;

23 2. A recommendation of a definite term now considered by the  
24 official as just and proper; and

1        3. A statement of the reasons for the recommendation based upon  
2 facts directly related to the case which were not available to the  
3 court or jury at the time of the trial or based upon there having  
4 been a statutory change in penalty for the crime which makes the  
5 original penalty appear excessive.

6        F. The Pardon and Parole Board shall establish an accelerated,  
7 single-stage commutation docket for any applicant who has been  
8 convicted of a crime that has been reclassified from a felony to a  
9 misdemeanor under Oklahoma law. The Pardon and Parole Board shall  
10 be empowered to recommend to the Governor for commutation, by  
11 majority vote, any commutation application placed on the  
12 accelerated, single-stage commutation docket that meets the  
13 eligibility criteria provided above. The Department of Corrections  
14 shall certify a list of potentially eligible inmates to the Pardon  
15 and Parole Board ~~within thirty (30) days of the effective date of~~  
16 ~~this act~~ no later than December 1, 2019.

17        G. The Pardon and Parole Board shall schedule the application  
18 on a commutation docket in compliance with the notice requirements  
19 set forth herein. The Board shall provide the victim or  
20 representative of the victim at least twenty (20) days to offer  
21 recommendations or protests before consideration of the application.

22        H. Applications for commutation shall be given impartial review  
23 as required in Section 10 of Article VI of the Oklahoma  
24 Constitution.

1 I. Any consideration for pardon shall be made only after  
2 application is made to the Pardon and Parole Board. Upon receipt of  
3 an application for pardon, the Board shall provide a copy of the  
4 application to the district attorney, the victim or representative  
5 of the victim, and the Office of the Attorney General within twenty  
6 (20) business days of receipt of such application. The district  
7 attorney and the victim or representative of the victim shall have  
8 twenty (20) business days to provide written recommendation or  
9 protest prior to the consideration of the application. The Board  
10 shall schedule the application on a pardon docket in compliance with  
11 the notice requirements set forth herein.

12 J. In accordance with Section 10 of Article VI of the Oklahoma  
13 Constitution, the Board shall communicate to the Legislature, at  
14 each regular session, by providing a summary of the activities of  
15 the Board. This summary shall include, but not be limited to, the  
16 following Board activity:

17 1. The approval or recommendation rates of the Board for both  
18 violent and nonviolent offenses;

19 2. The parole approval rates for each individual Board member  
20 for both violent and nonviolent offenses; and

21 3. The percentage of public comments to and personal  
22 appearances before the Board including victim protests and personal  
23 appearances, district attorney protests and personal appearances,  
24

1 and delegate recommendations and personal appearances on behalf of  
2 the offender.

3 This summary shall be made available to the public through  
4 publication on the website of the Pardon and Parole Board.

5 K. The Pardon and Parole Board shall provide a copy of their  
6 regular docket and administrative parole docket to each district  
7 attorney in this state at least twenty (20) days before such docket  
8 is considered by the Board, or in the case of a supplemental,  
9 addendum, or special docket, at least ten (10) days before such  
10 docket is considered by the Board, and shall notify the district  
11 attorney of any recommendations for commutations or paroles no later  
12 than twenty (20) days after the docket is considered by the Board.

13 L. The Pardon and Parole Board shall notify ~~all victims~~ any  
14 victim or representatives of the victim in writing at least twenty  
15 (20) days before an inmate is considered by the Board provided the  
16 Board has received a request from the victim or representatives of  
17 the victim for notice. The Board shall provide ~~all victims~~ any  
18 victim or representatives of the victim with the date, time, and  
19 place of the scheduled meeting and rules for attendance and  
20 providing information or input to the Board regarding the inmate or  
21 the crime. If requested by the victim or representatives of the  
22 victim, the Board shall allow the victim or representatives of the  
23 victim to testify at the parole hearing of the inmate for at least  
24 five (5) minutes.

1 M. The Pardon and Parole Board shall notify all victims or  
2 representatives of the victim in writing of the decision of the  
3 Board no later than twenty (20) days after the inmate is considered  
4 by the Board.

5 N. Any notice required to be provided to the victims or the  
6 representatives of the victim shall be mailed by first-class mail to  
7 the last-known address of the victim or representatives of the  
8 victim and shall be sent by email to the last-known email address of  
9 the victim or representatives of the victim. It is the  
10 responsibility of the victims or representatives of the victim to  
11 provide the Pardon and Parole Board a current mailing address or  
12 email address. The victim-witness coordinator of the district  
13 attorney shall assist the victims or representatives of the victim  
14 with supplying their address or email address to the Board if they  
15 wish to be notified. Upon failure of the Pardon and Parole Board to  
16 notify a victim who has requested notification and has provided a  
17 current mailing address or email address, the final decision of the  
18 Board may be voidable, provided, the victim who failed to receive  
19 notification requests a reconsideration hearing within thirty (30)  
20 days of the recommendation by the Board for parole. The Pardon and  
21 Parole Board may reconsider previous action and may rescind a  
22 recommendation if deemed appropriate as determined by the Board.

23 O. For purposes of this section, "victim" shall mean ~~all~~  
24 ~~persons~~ any person who ~~have~~ has suffered direct or threatened

1 physical or emotional harm~~7~~ or financial loss as the result of the  
2 commission or attempted commission of criminally injurious conduct,  
3 and "representatives of the victim" shall mean those persons who are  
4 members of the immediate family of the victim, including  
5 stepparents, stepbrothers, stepsisters, and stepchildren.

6 P. All meetings of the Pardon and Parole Board shall comply  
7 with Section 301 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~7~~1,  
8 provided that the Board shall have the authority to limit the number  
9 of persons attending in support of, or in opposition to, any inmate  
10 being considered for parole and shall have the authority to exclude  
11 persons from attendance in accordance with prison security  
12 regulations and the capacity of the meeting room. Persons excluded  
13 from attending the meeting under this provision shall be informed of  
14 their right to be informed of the vote of the Board in accordance  
15 with Section 312 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Provided  
16 further, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any  
17 member of the press or any public official from attending any  
18 meeting of the Pardon and Parole Board, except as provided by the  
19 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

20 Q. All victim information maintained by the Department of  
21 Corrections and the Pardon and Parole Board shall be confidential  
22 and shall not be released.

23 R. When a commutation is granted or denied, the Secretary of  
24 State shall give notice of that fact to the district attorney and

1 clerk of the court in the county where the sentence was originally  
2 obtained within thirty (30) business days. ~~Said~~ Such notice may be  
3 given by either first-class mail or email. Upon receipt of ~~said~~  
4 such notice, the clerk of the court shall file the notice. The  
5 district attorney shall confirm that the clerk of the court has  
6 filed ~~said~~ the notice. The notice shall include the following  
7 information:

8 1. The month and year in which the commutation was recommended  
9 by the Pardon and Parole Board;

10 2. The decision of the Governor to grant or deny commutation;  
11 and

12 3. If commutation is granted, the new term of sentence,  
13 including conditions thereof, if any, for each charged count.

14 S. The district attorney in the district where the sentence was  
15 originally obtained shall ensure that all victims or representatives  
16 of the victim are given notice of the decision regarding  
17 commutation.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
20 February 10, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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