

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1244

By: Rader

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to pardons and paroles; amending 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.21, which relates to parole of certain inmates; modifying criteria for certain parole; modifying criteria for certain risk-assessment instrument; requiring the Pardon and Parole Board to place certain inmates on parole docket; requiring granting of certain parole; updating statutory language and reference; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2021, Section 332.21, is amended to read as follows:

Section 332.21. A. The Pardon and Parole Board is empowered to parole ~~a prisoner~~ an inmate who:

1. Is sixty (60) years of age or older;
2. Has served, in actual custody, the shorter of ten (10) years of the term or terms of imprisonment, or one-third (1/3) of the total term or terms of imprisonment; and
3. ~~Poses minimal public~~ Does not pose substantial safety risks warranting continued imprisonment~~+~~.

1       ~~4. Is not imprisoned for a crime enumerated in Section 13.1 of~~  
2 ~~Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes or Section 571 of Title 57 of the~~  
3 ~~Oklahoma Statutes; and~~

4       ~~5. Has not been convicted of a crime that would require the~~  
5 ~~person to be subject to the registration requirements of the Sex~~  
6 ~~Offenders Registration Act.~~

7       B. The authority to grant parole under Section 332.2 of ~~Title~~  
8 ~~57 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title shall rest with the Pardon  
9 and Parole Board.

10       C. The Pardon and Parole Board shall use an evidence-based  
11 risk-assessment instrument to assess the public safety risk posed by  
12 aging ~~prisoners~~ inmates upon release. Such instrument shall include  
13 the health status of the inmates.

14       D. Unless eligible for release at an earlier date, an aging  
15 ~~prisoner~~ inmate who has been committed to the Department of  
16 Corrections for a term or terms of imprisonment shall have the  
17 ability to request a parole hearing before the Pardon and Parole  
18 Board if the ~~prisoner~~ inmate has served, in actual custody, the  
19 shorter of:

20       1. Ten (10) years of the term or terms of actual imprisonment;

21       or

22       2. One-third (1/3) of the total term or terms of imprisonment.

1 E. Once a ~~prisoner~~ an inmate requests a parole hearing under  
2 subsection A of this section, the Pardon and Parole Board ~~may~~ shall  
3 place the ~~prisoner~~ inmate on the next available docket.

4 F. The Pardon and Parole Board ~~may~~ shall grant parole to a  
5 ~~prisoner~~ an inmate if the Board finds by a preponderance of the  
6 evidence that the ~~prisoner~~ inmate, if released, can live and remain  
7 at liberty without posing a substantial risk to public safety.

8 G. The Pardon and Parole Board ~~may~~ shall use the selected  
9 evidence-based risk-assessment instrument to make the determination  
10 provided for in subsection F of this section.

11 H. The Pardon and Parole Board may provide the ~~prisoner~~ inmate  
12 the opportunity to speak on his or her own behalf and the option of  
13 having counsel present at the parole hearing.

14 I. For purposes of this section:

15 1. ~~"Aging prisoner"~~ "Aging inmate" means any person imprisoned  
16 by the Department of Corrections who is sixty (60) years of age or  
17 older; and

18 2. "Evidence-based" means programs or practices that have been  
19 scientifically tested in controlled studies and proven to be  
20 effective.

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

22  
23 60-2-2557 CN 12/15/2025 2:14:21 PM  
24  
25