

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4   HOUSE BILL 2729

                                  By: Pittman

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7                                   AS INTRODUCED

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

1       A. The Department of Corrections shall establish the Oklahoma  
2 Prisoner Reentry Pilot Program for inmates under the jurisdiction of  
3 the Department who have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment and  
4 are likely to benefit from a case management reentry strategy  
5 designed for the specific needs of an inmate who is transitioning  
6 from prison into the community. The purpose of the pilot program  
7 shall be to implement evidence-based practices and strategies that  
8 promote improved public safety outcomes for inmates reentering  
9 society after serving a term of incarceration and while released on  
10 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 for 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 inmates.  
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;

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- 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, job interviewing, resume writing  
8 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 postparole 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.
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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 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, 2021.

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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS,  
19 dated 02/25/2021 - DO PASS.  
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