

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 2729

By: Pittman

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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

A. The Department of Corrections shall establish the Oklahoma  
Prisoner Reentry Pilot Program for inmates under the jurisdiction of

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

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

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

3 D. Individualized inmate reentry plans shall focus on  
4 connecting inmates to services for which the inmate is eligible  
5 under existing federal, state and local laws.

6 E. Case management services shall be prioritized for inmates  
7 identified as potentially benefiting from assistance with the  
8 following:

9 1. Food, including the immediate need and long-term planning  
10 for obtaining food;

11 2. Clothing, including the immediate need to obtain appropriate  
12 clothing;

13 3. Shelter, including the immediate need to obtain housing;

14 4. Benefits including, but not limited to, general assistance,  
15 benefits administered by the federal Social Security Administration,  
16 Oklahoma Medicaid and veterans benefits;

17 5. Health services, including accessing community mental  
18 health, medical and dental treatment;

19 6. Substance abuse services, including assisting inmates with  
20 obtaining community substance abuse treatment or related 12-step  
21 program information and locations;

22 7. Income, including developing and implementing a feasible  
23 plan to obtain income and employment reflecting the highest level of  
24 work appropriate for the abilities and experience of the inmate;

1 8. Identification cards, including assisting reentering inmates  
2 with obtaining driver licenses or state identification cards;

3 9. Life skills, including assisting with the development of  
4 skills concerning money management, job interviewing, resume writing  
5 and activities of daily living;

6 10. Activities, including working with reentering inmates in  
7 choosing and engaging in suitable and productive activities;

8 11. Support systems, including working with reentering inmates  
9 on developing a support system which may consist of prosocial  
10 friends, family and community groups and activities such as  
11 religious activities, recovery groups and other social events;

12 12. Academic and vocational programs, including assisting  
13 reentering inmates in developing and implementing a realistic plan  
14 to achieve an academic education, vocational training or both;

15 13. Discharge planning, including developing postparole plans  
16 to sustain the achievements and goals of the reentering inmate to  
17 ensure long-term community success; and

18 14. Transitional support services, including transportation  
19 services, twenty-four-hour on-call support and conflict resolution  
20 support.

21 F. The Department shall be authorized to enter into public-  
22 private partnerships to assist in providing higher education  
23 programs and reentry services for inmates and funding said programs  
24 and services for the pilot program.

1 G. The Department shall be authorized to accept funding for the  
2 pilot program from philanthropic organizations or federal grants.

3 H. The Department shall contract for an evaluation of the pilot  
4 program that will assess its effectiveness in reducing recidivism  
5 among offenders transitioning from prison into the community.

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

9 J. The Department of Corrections is hereby authorized to  
10 promulgate policies necessary to implement the provisions of this  
11 section.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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