

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB 595 |
| Version: | INT |
| Request No. | 528 |
| Author: | Sen. Weaver |
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Bill Analysis

SB 595 creates the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act. The measure requires all detention facilities and lockup facilities shall operate in compliance with the provisions of the measure. The measure directs the State Department of Health to inspect all detention facilities instead of city and county jails. The measure requires staff to be available to perform sensitive functions and procedures as necessary to accommodate inmate gender as required by law. The measure authorizes a facility to request a waiver from the provisions of the measure if the enforcement would impose undue hardship upon the county, municipality, or public trust, or upon the inmates held at such facility.

The measure requires each facility to develop policies for the uniform admission and release of inmates, sensible security measures, maintenance of sanitary conditions, provision of wholesome and adequate diets, and the provision of adequate bedding and clothing. Counties are authorized to build barrack-style or temporary tent jails. All employees who work in direct contact with inmates to receive after the first year of employment at least 4 hours of review of material as required by the State Department of Health and at maximum 8 hours of detention officer training per year. The measure prohibits confining any person without 24-hour supervision. The measure requires all cells to have at least 40 square feet of floor space for the initial inmate and at least 20 additional feet of floor space for each additional inmate occupying the same cell.

The measure requires each facility to have at least 1 special-purpose cell to provide for the temporary detention of inmates under the influence of alcohol or dangerous substances. The measure establishes lighting standards for each cell and requires showers to have non-skid floors. A county may provide a dormitory-style detention facility to accommodate up to medium-security level inmates. The measure requires administrators to develop policies and procedures for verifying commitment papers, searching inmates, inventorying property of inmates, receiving medical information, providing first aid at certain locations, allowing inmates 2 calls at the time of booking, providing clean bedding, keeping inmate counts, separate housing for female and male inmates, and providing at least 3 meals per day. Administrators must also ensure adequate fire safety precautions are taken.

The measure prohibits detaining a juvenile in any holding facility or lockup facility. Juvenile inmates must be able to communicate with staff members at all times. No staff member shall be permitted to enter a juvenile inmate living area without backup assistance being available from another staff member. The State Department of Health shall coordinate with the Office of Juvenile Affairs to certify detention facilities.

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