

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 HOUSE BILL 1965

By: Branham

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to criminal justice; authorizing
8 creation of post-conviction clemency pilot program;
9 stating duties of the pilot program; providing
10 purpose of pilot program; authorizing the
11 promulgation of rules; providing for codification;
12 and providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 510.8d of Title 57, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. The Department of Corrections, in partnership with the
18 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the
19 Department of Human Services and the Office of the Governor, is
20 hereby authorized to establish a post-conviction clemency pilot
21 program for individuals facing mental health or substance abuse
22 disorders with the opportunity to receive supportive services when
23 he or she is selected for the program. Implementing a post-
24 conviction clemency program that focuses on providing eligible
individuals with needed services as an alternative to traditional

1 incarceration may assist in maintaining public safety and provide
2 successful reentry into society. The post-conviction clemency pilot
3 program shall be a collaboration between the Department of
4 Corrections, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
5 Services, Department of Human Services and Office of the Governor.

6 B. The post-conviction clemency pilot program shall provide
7 individualized services using existing funds and focus on the
8 following:

- 9 1. Harm reduction by connecting individuals in need with
10 treatment programs and social services;
- 11 2. Peer support by using shared experiences to promote and
12 encourage success;
- 13 3. Intensive outreach by engaging participants in the community
14 to help maintain and improve their level of engagement with
15 services;
- 16 4. Use of professional staff, peer supports and partnerships to
17 connect participants with available community services and economic
18 supports; and
- 19 5. Use of evidence-based reentry programs.

20 C. The purpose of the post-conviction clemency pilot program
21 shall be to:

- 22 1. Promote positive behavior for reentry of those individuals
23 with behavioral health needs and substance abuse disorders;

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1 2. Address the underlying conditions that contribute to
2 criminal behavior;

3 3. Increase access to behavioral health support services;

4 4. Improve housing stability through homelessness prevention
5 counseling;

6 5. Increase access to support services, including employment,
7 education and enrollment in economic benefit programs; and

8 6. Decrease criminal activity impacting the community.

9 D. The Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health
10 and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Human Services and
11 Office of the Governor shall promulgate rules necessary to implement
12 the provisions of this section.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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