

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 SENATE BILL 1298

By: Coleman

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to offenders; directing development
8 of a comprehensive reentry program; creating a
9 certificate of rehabilitation; allowing certain
10 judicial consideration; requiring certain application
11 notification; stating certain application
12 requirements; requiring certain database; providing
13 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 997 of Title 22, unless there is
17 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. Subject to availability of funds, the Department of
19 Corrections shall develop and implement a comprehensive reentry
20 program that will assist offenders with reentry into society upon
21 release from incarceration. In addition to educational and
22 vocational programs, reentry programs may include social and
23 behavioral programs, substance abuse counseling, mentoring programs,
24 financial planning, physical and mental health programs and housing
25 and federal assistance programs.

1 B. 1. Upon successful completion of the reentry program, the
2 offender may apply for a certificate of rehabilitation to the
3 district court within the jurisdiction in which the offender was
4 convicted and sentenced. The district judge may issue a certificate
5 to an offender symbolizing his or her achievement toward successful
6 reentry into society.

7 2. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of rehabilitation,
8 the judge may take into account an offender's disciplinary record
9 and any other factor that the court deems relevant to an
10 individual's qualification for the certificate.

11 C. Upon receipt of an application for a certificate of
12 rehabilitation, the court shall notify the county's district
13 attorney, or representative, that the application has been filed.

14 D. The application for a certificate of rehabilitation shall
15 include, but not be limited to, the following information:

16 1. A general statement as to why the offender has filed the
17 petition, how the certificate would assist the individual and why it
18 should be granted;

19 2. A summary of the individual's criminal history with respect
20 to each offense, including the years sentenced and the years served
21 for each conviction or plea of guilty for each offense;

22 3. A summary of the individual's employment history, specifying
23 the name of, and dates of employment with each employer;

24 4. Verifiable references and endorsements;

1 5. The name of one or more immediate family members of the
2 individual, or other persons with whom the individual has a close
3 relationship, who will support the individual's release and reentry;
4 and

5 6. Any other information required by the Department of
6 Corrections.

7 E. The Department of Corrections shall specify eligibility
8 considerations and requirements for completion of the program
9 provided for in subsection A of this section.

10 F. An offender convicted of a violent crime, as defined in
11 paragraph 2 of Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
12 shall not be eligible for a certificate of rehabilitation.

13 G. A certificate issued under this section shall be revoked if
14 the individual to whom the certificate was issued is convicted of or
15 pleads guilty to a felony offense committed subsequent to the
16 issuance of the certificate of qualification for employment.

17 H. The Department of Corrections shall maintain a database that
18 identifies granted certificates and revoked certificates and tracks
19 the number of certificates granted and revoked, the industries,
20 occupations and professions with respect to which the certificates
21 have been most applicable and the type of employers that have
22 accepted the certificates of rehabilitation.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

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