

IN THE LOOP

Representative Carol Bush, House District 70

Healthy Food Financing Act

SB0506

At the request of the American Heart Association, Senate Bill 506 has passed through the legislature and is heading to Governor Fallin's desk.

The bill creates a fund that would help construct grocery stores, expand local farmers' markets, and help shop owners purchase all they need to offer fresh food to expand healthy choices in Oklahoma's food deserts.

Because of the former First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign, the fund grows from federal grants, private business, and non-profits' contributions. This ensures that state funding will not affect the program.

With the help of Peggy Thomas, deputy commissioner of Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the program will be up and running soon.

"This is something that's been done in numerous other states," Thompson explains, including Alabama and Louisiana. "They've seen tremendous effects of the grocery store, or the community store, the little corner store being very successful. And studies are showing that people want that healthy food, they just don't have access to it."

'Pay for Success' Introduced

Governor Mary Fallin today announced that the state of Oklahoma and Tulsa-based Family & Children's Services (F&CS) have entered into a groundbreaking Pay for Success (PFS) contract aimed at reducing OK's nation-leading female incarceration rate by securing public-private investment in the successful Women in Recovery (WIR) prison diversion program. This project will enable WIR to expand its services, admitting up to 125 women into the program annually for up to five years.

Pay for Success is an innovative funding model that combines nonprofit expertise, private funding, and independent evaluation to transform how government leaders respond to chronic social issues. Funders provide the upfront capital to scale effective service providers. Government agrees to repay funders if and when the project achieves its desired impact. With this PFS contract, the state will repay only if WIR program participants are not incarcerated in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC).

Since the first PFS project in 2010, more than 70 projects have started throughout 18 countries. This contract will be the first U.S. program focused on female incarceration.

The state requires F&CS to secure at least \$2 million in capital to fund the program each year to renew the contract. To reduce financial risk for the state and insure program funding, the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) will continue to provide its current commitment of \$1.8 million a year to services to address female incarceration in Tulsa County, including WIR. The philanthropic funding from GKFF allows for payments from the state to be re-invested directly back into a successful program, as outcomes are achieved.

The adoption of the Pay for Success model transfers risk from the state to the private sector, in pursuit of preventive programs that hold promise for long-term cost savings and social benefits. The total payments made for successful program outcomes are considered less than the direct cost of incarceration and the costs of all of the documented negative future impacts of incarceration on employment, health, family stability and social assistance.

Social Finance, a nonprofit organization with deep experience designing and managing PFS projects, served as project advisor.

Senate Bill 1278, authored by Sen. Kim David and Rep. Leslie Osborn, was signed into law in 2014. The bill gave the state the ability to take new approaches to criminal justice programming by authorizing OMES to enter into PFS contracts with qualified criminal justice service providers.

3 Budget Measures Passed this Week

JCR to HB2343- Passed 25-19

By Rep. Leslie Osborn and Sen. Kimberly David, limits the definition of the term "noncompliant" taxpayer to include only those operating under a sales tax permit who fails within any consecutive 24-month period to file reports or remit tax due for any two months as required for sales taxes under the provisions of any tax law, not only the Oklahoma Tax Code. The bill exempts nonpayment of income taxes from the definition. Rep. Marcus McEntire, who presented the bill, said an additional \$17 million is expected to be generated.

JCR to HB2344- Passed 83-3

Active, by Rep. Osborn and Sen. David, reduces the total amount of rebates available in an one fiscal year under the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program from \$5 million to \$4 million. Discussion about the increases and breaks.

JCR to HB2350- Passed 86-3

Active, by Osborn and David, eliminates sales tax exemptions for tickets to certain types of professional athletic and sporting events.

Bills to be watching

SB0052- Active, passed 75-16

By Sen. Jack Fry, R-Midwest City, and Rep. Scooter Park, R-Devol, requires a person to produce and provide physical possession of a driver license to a peace officer upon the officer's request.

SB0189- Active, passed 80-11

By Sen. Kay Floyd, D-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Claudia Griffith, exempts from sales tax sales of tangible personal property or services to an organization exempt from taxation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3) and operates as a collaborative model which connects community agencies in one location to serve individuals and families affected by violence and where victims have access to services and advocacy at no cost to the victim.

SB0217- Active, passed 87-4

By Sen. A J Griffin and Rep. Mike Osburn, clarifies language related to the requirement that the Department of Corrections conduct address verification every ninety 90 days if the offender has been determined to be a habitual or aggravated sex offender by the Department of Corrections or has been assigned a level assignment of three. It requires an offender to continue to comply with the reporting requirements the absence of receipt of the mailed verification form. The bill modifies reporting requirements between local law enforcement agencies and the Department of Corrections. It makes reporting as required as a violation of the Sex Offenders Registration Act.



SB0297- Active, Title has been stricken, passed 81-11

By Sen. Stephanie Bice, R-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Glen Mulready, R-Tulsa, modifies acts authorized by a small farm winery license to include: serving free samples of wine produced by the licensee to visitors 21 years or older; selling wine produced by the small farm winery for either on-premises consumption or off-premises to consumer on that winery's premises; and to sell wine at public events. It prohibits any visitor from sampling more than a total of six fluid ounces of wine per day. It establishes requirements for the sampling area.

SB0692- Active, passed 83-5

By Griffin and Rep. Scott Biggs, a statement made by a vulnerable or incapacitated person which describes an act of financial exploitation or violent act be admissible in criminal and juvenile proceedings in the courts under certain circumstances. It requires the party to make known to the adverse party an intention to offer the statement with an opportunity to prepare to answer the statement in order for the statement to be admissible.

Chair Chats with Carol

April 27th @ 6:30PM

Edison High School

Special Guest Gary Stanislawski